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# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,834

MONDAY 1 FEBRUARY 1999

(1R50p) 45p



## THE GLOBAL CRISIS: IS THE WORLD HEADING FOR ECONOMIC MELTDOWN?

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SPORT

# US warns Europe to cut rates

BRITAIN AND the rest of Europe are being warned by the US that they risk plunging the world into fresh economic crisis.

Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, said yesterday that Europe must take urgent steps to stimulate domestic demand and bring down trade barriers. Such measures might include further interest-rate cuts and reduced taxes.

But Wim Duisenberg, president of the European Central Bank, said there was no need to boost the eurozone economies

with lower interest rates. In a BBC interview yesterday, he said: "If there were signs of deflation then the lowering of interest rates would be justified. But we are not there yet."

Mr Rubin said the high-growth US economy could not continue indefinitely to support the rest of the world as a "consumer of last resort", and he called on Europe and Japan for action to achieve higher

levels of domestic demand growth and to remove trade barriers.

He told the World Economic Forum in Davos that the US was hearing an unfairly large part of the burden of the present crisis in world markets and economies. "The US has a large and growing trade deficit, while Europe and Japan have large and stable or growing trade surpluses," he said.

"It is almost impossible to avoid the conclusion that the US has simply been more open

to absorbing the exports of countries seeking to recover from crisis."

Wide disagreement emerged about the degree of reform needed in the international "financial architecture" to prevent a repetition of the economic crisis in developing countries.

Proposals for a conditional world lender of last resort, which would make unlimited funds available to countries subject to speculative attack in the capital markets, drew a cool response from US policy-

makers. Any system for giving early warning of financial crisis was likely to be flawed, Mr Rubin said.

Both proposals are viewed sympathetically by the British government, represented at the meeting by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown.

Mr Rubin warned that the international system could not sustain indefinitely the large trade imbalances created by the disparities in growth and openness between the US and its major industrial trading part-

ners. However, he rejected the suggestion that the US trade deficit - predicted to rise to a record figure of more than \$300bn this year - would necessarily result in a big exchange-rate correction bringing the US economic boom to an end. He insisted that the trade deficit was sustainable as long as US capital markets remained attractive to outside investors.

A core difference of opinion emerged over the sustainability of the US economic miracle. Many delegates took a highly

pessimistic view, but US policymakers believe the momentum of US growth and the stock market will continue.

Mr Rubin qualified this by calling on other developed countries to stimulate demand to prevent the world economy slipping into recession.

There was also fierce disagreement about both the causes of the continued crisis in emerging markets and appropriate remedies. "Is it the excesses of Western financial markets which have caused the

contagious collapse of developing economies, or is it down to the pursuit of unsound policy by the governments involved?" asked one senior policymaker.

Mr Rubin said the free market system faced enormous challenges and would need to be radically reformed in the years ahead. However, he warned there were no "magic wands or quick fixes". He said: "Reducing the excesses of booms will reduce the likelihood and severity of busts."

The global crisis, pages 7-13

## Aids virus is thousands of years old

SCIENTISTS HAVE discovered the origin of Aids. New evidence reveals that the virus has repeatedly passed from wild chimpanzees to humans for many thousands of years.

According to the findings, which are to be unveiled this week, it has only now created a global killer epidemic because of the huge social and political upheaval in Africa in the 20th century, particularly after the Second World War.

Scientists believe that the discovery, which comes after a 20-year hunt, raises the prospect of studying wild chimpanzees to ascertain why they appear to be immune to the virus. Such research could lead to a vaccine against the human disease.

A chimpanzee named Marilyn has helped to confirm how the virus passed into people. Frozen blood samples from the animal have been analysed, proving that wild chimpanzees living in Africa are the natural "reservoir" of the human disease, which now affects 30 million people worldwide.

In a study to be published this week in *Nature*, the scientists argue that the transmission of chimp viruses into humans occurred relatively recently - perhaps not more than 70 years ago.

Blood samples were taken from Marilyn just before she died in 1985 after spending much of her 26 years in captivity. They reveal that she was infected with a virus that is a genetic ancestor to HIV-1, the principal Aids virus.

Feng Gao, professor of medicine at Alabama University, a leading member of the international team of scientists who made the discovery, said: "We have long suspected a virus from African primates to be the cause of human Aids, but exactly which animal species was unknown."

Marilyn, who belonged to a subspecies of chimpanzee called *Pan troglodytes troglodytes*, was caught in Gabon, west-central Africa, before being used in medical research at a US Air Force base in New Mexico. Scientists believe she became infected in Africa as she had not been injected with human blood products since 1969, before the HIV epidemic reached the West.

Although Aids-like viruses have been found in three other chimps, it was a genetic analysis of Marilyn's virus that finally provided the clue the scientists

needed to conclude that chimps were the natural hosts of HIV.

Paul Sharp, professor of genetics at Nottingham University and a member of the research team, said that although he has harboured many doubts over what could have caused Aids, the latest study on Marilyn has clarified the issue. "I'm really at the stage where I'm no longer hedging my bets. I'm pretty convinced by what we have found," he said.

Beatrice Hahn, a leading Aids scientist at Alabama, said close contact between people in Africa and wild chimps almost certainly led to HIV crossing the "species barrier" from monkey to man. The prime culprit for transmission to man is the bushmeat trade.

"Chimpanzees are frequently hunted for food, especially in west-central Africa, and we believe that HIV-1 was introduced into the human population through exposure to blood during hunting," Professor Hahn said.

Although African monkeys have long been suspected of being the natural reservoir of the human Aids virus, scientists had not previously been able to find the evidence they needed to enable them to make a positive identification of the "guilty" species.

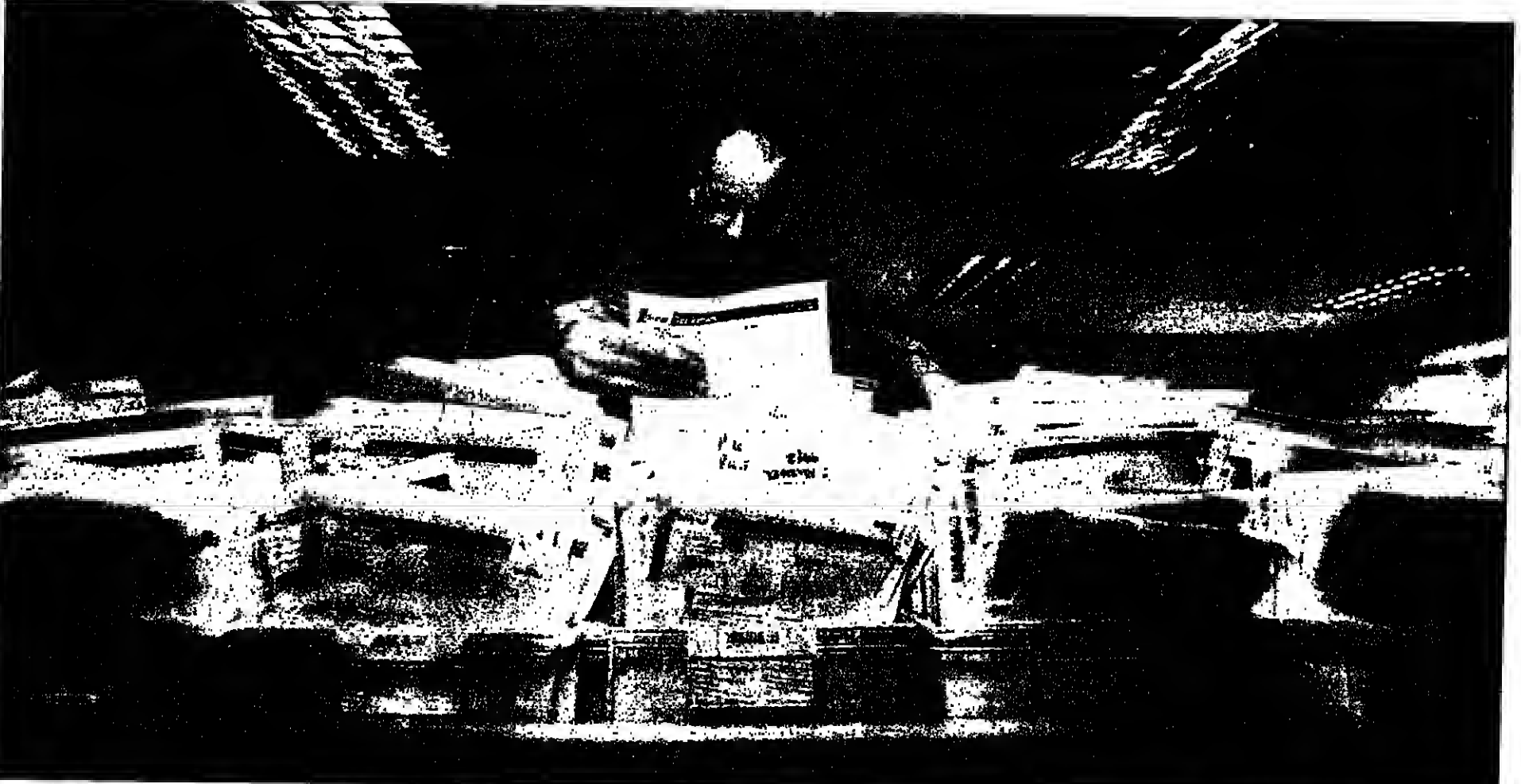
A comparison of Marilyn's virus with other monkey viruses shows that chimps have been infected for many tens of thousands of years. Although it is likely that the species barrier has been broken many times, only in this century did it result in a widespread human epidemic.

"Increasing urbanisation, breakdown of traditional lifestyles, population movements, civil unrest and sexual promiscuity are all known to increase the rates of sexually transmitted diseases, and thus likely triggered the Aids pandemic," Professor Hahn said.

Simon Wain-Hobson, a world authority on Aids viruses at the Pasteur Institute, in Paris, who analysed the first chimpanzee SIV (simian immune-deficiency virus) to be discovered, said the latest research answers many questions.

"This is the most complete description of HIV's origin to date and adds another piece to the unfolding jigsaw, but a number of pieces to the puzzle still remain to be solved," he said.

## Many late returns make a happy day for taxman



Tax officials in Edinburgh were inundated with returns from people meeting today's deadline. Those who fail must pay £100. Rush, page 5 David Motr/Newsflash

## Tory MEP resigns over porn and drugs scandal

THE TORY MEP caught in possession of drugs and pornography bowed to the inevitable yesterday and announced he would step down at the European elections in June.

Tom Spencer, MEP for Surrey, had the Conservative whip withdrawn and will be excluded from all party activities in the European Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg.

After a day of intense pressure from senior Conservatives, Mr Spencer said he would remove his name from the party's list of candidates for the summer elections.

His decision to quit came less than 24 hours after he admitted that Customs officers had found homosexual pornography, cannabis joints and 1.5 grams of cocaine in his luggage.

Mr Spencer, a former leader of the Tory group in Europe who chairs the European Parliament's foreign affairs and security committee, was fined £500 in an out-of-court settlement after the discovery by Customs on his return from a weekend in Amsterdam. At

first, he had resisted calls for his resignation, but caved in when the party chairman, Michael Ancram, indicated that it was likely he would be forced to stand down.

If Mr Spencer had tried to tough out the bad publicity, he might have been barred from the candidates' list "within days", according to Conservative Central Office sources.

In a brief statement issued last night, he said he was sorry that his "act of folly" had caused embarrassment to the Tory party. He and his wife had reviewed his predicament and he had decided to step down after discussions with colleagues, friends and supporters in the party.

"I have concluded that it is in the best interests of all concerned that I should withdraw from the party's list for the next European elections," he said.

Mr Ancram, who had been poised to refer Mr Spencer's case to the Tories' new ethics and integrity committee today,



Tom Spencer: 'Act of folly' said he was glad the affair was now closed.

"I welcome his decision to resign from the Conservative list, which I believe is in the best interests of himself, his family and the party," said Mr Ancram. "I would like to pay tribute to him for the important work he has done on behalf of the party in Europe over the years. I hope he may now be given the space to rebuild his life."

Mr Spencer, who says he is gay, said: "I would like to thank

all the journalists whose individual courtesy has made the last two days bearable."

He said he had received many messages of support during the two days in which he had tried to weather the storm.

He will remain an MEP until the June elections and a member of the party afterwards.

The three-member ethics and integrity committee, which was formed as part of anti-sleaze measures aimed at cleaning up the Tories' image, could have thrown him out if the matter had been referred. It is chaired by Elizabeth Appleby QC, who sits with Robin Hodgson, chairman of the National Conservative Convention, and Archie Hamilton, chairman of the backbench 1922 committee.

Kenneth Clarke, former Chancellor of the Exchequer, said Mr Spencer had been one of the best British MEPs for a number of years. He said: "I like Tom. He is a friend of mine. He is an extremely good member of the European Parliament and I am rather shocked and surprised by the news."

Double Dutch life, page 3

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# FA may make Hoddle pay the price for his verbal sin

BY STEVE BOGGAN AND  
ANDREW BUNCOMBE

GLENN HODDLE'S future as coach of the England football team could be decided in the next 24 hours amid outrage over his claims that disabled people were being punished for sins in previous lives.

Margaret Hodge, the government minister with responsibility for disabled people, yesterday added her voice to calls for Hoddle's sacking as the Football Association's acting chairman, Geoff Thompson, prepared to hold crisis talks with Hoddle.

Ms Hodge joined Tony Banks, the Sports minister, in expressing astonishment at Hoddle's comments and said it was "inappropriate" for him to hold the position of England coach. "Those were not remarks off the cuff made once," she said. "He has held similar views and expressed them in the past on the radio. There are probably over six million disabled people in Britain today and to suggest to them that somehow it is their fault, or somehow they have a lesser contribution to make to society, is very deeply insulting."

"I think that someone in a public position, which Glenn Hoddle is, which brings him many privileges, also brings him responsibilities. I think it is inappropriate that he should hold that place and I think his bosses should look at that seriously."

Hoddle, whose insistence on using the services of the faith healer Eileen Drewery has opened him up to ridicule, caused a furore on Saturday when he told a football reporter during a newspaper interview: "You and I have been physically given two hands and two legs and a half-decent brain. Some people have not been born like that for a reason."

"The karma is working from another lifetime. I have nothing to hide about that. It is not only people with disabilities. What you sow, you have to reap. You have to look at things that happened in your life and ask why it comes around."

Hoddle's claims that his comments had been misconstrued fell on deaf ears when it emerged that he had made similar comments on BBC Radio 5 Live last year. Then, he said: "I think we make mistakes when we are down here and our spirit has to come back and



The Rt Rev David Jenkins: 'Sad he said these things'

learn. That's why there is an injustice in the world, why there are certain people born into the world with terrible physical problems."

The FA initially stood by the England coach, but yesterday there were signs that it was distancing itself from him. Officials have grown increasingly exasperated with Hoddle since the publication of his World Cup diary, in which he criticised players and described Paul Gascoigne's furious reaction when told he was being dropped from the squad - a disclosure that many people feel was a breach of confidentiality between player and manager.

David Davies, the FA's acting chief executive who co-wrote Hoddle's book, told Radio 5 Live: "Geoff Thompson [the FA chairman] has made it clear that he wants to discuss Glenn's comments with him personally. He wants to know the circumstances surrounding the interview."

He said the FA wanted to know why an interview on football "turned into something quite different and a discussion on reincarnation", and added: "What I think ... the FA will rightly want from Glenn are assurances - and Glenn will probably be prepared to give them - as far as the future is concerned about non-football matters." When asked about Hoddle's future, Mr Davies said: "Getting into that discussion at a time like this is not helpful to anybody, least of all Glenn Hoddle and the FA."

While Hoddle refused to elaborate on an insistence he made on Saturday that his meaning had been "turned completely on its head", reaction to his comments was almost universally negative. Bob Price, chairman of the British Paralympic Association, said

Hoddle's beliefs would cause "considerable psychological and emotional hurt" to disabled people. He, too, urged the FA to consider Hoddle's position.

Mr Banks said: "Anyone who actually feels that a disability is somehow being visited on you from your time in another life is, frankly, coming from another world." David Mellow, chairman of the Football Task Force, said Hoddle's beliefs were akin to "some sort of superstition from the Dark Ages."

Hoddle was born in 1958 in Hayes, west London, into a working-class family, his father was a toolmaker, his mother a housewife. The family talks fondly of him rolling up wool to use as a football as soon as he could walk.

In 1974, he signed as an apprentice for Tottenham Hotspur after playing for Harlow and Essex school sides. In an English game that valued graft above artistry, the elegance of Hoddle, his inch-perfect passing, effortless dribbling and curling free-kicks marked him out from his peers and earned him 53 England caps.

In 1987, he moved to Monaco, where he helped the French side to a league championship within 12 months. He returned to this country as player-manager at Swindon, encouraging a continental style and winning promotion to the Premiership in 1993. Immediately afterwards, he joined Chelsea as player manager and, in 1996, was appointed England coach.

At first, his arrival was welcomed. However, his introduction into the camp of Mrs Drewery, his espousal of increasingly weird religious beliefs and his occasionally odd team selections took its toll on his relationship with the media.

Many observers believe Mrs Drewery has been the biggest influence over Hoddle since, at the age of 18, he was introduced to her after suffering a torn hamstring. He declined her offer of help, but she promised to heal him in his absence. The next day, the injury was gone and Hoddle was hooked.

The rest of his beliefs appear to be a homespun mixture of Eastern traditions and New Age philosophy.

Commenting on the affair yesterday, the former Bishop of Durham, the Rt Rev David Jenkins, said: "I think that with so much information available about different religions and with people no longer rooted so



Glenn Hoddle arriving at his home in Finchampstead, Berkshire, yesterday

Austin Hargrave/INS

firmly in a faith, it is quite common for people to have a pick-and-mix situation. I just think it is sad that he has said these things and people have jumped down his throat in this way. We are so quick to jump on people for their beliefs these days."

Karma and reincarnation are ideas central to the main religions of the Indian sub-continent, but observers believe Hoddle's views are rather different. Guhya Pati, a broadcaster and writer on Buddhism, said: "A lot of people in this country have a very muddled view about Buddhism and Hinduism. There is an awful lot of talk about reincarnation which seems to be little more than pseudo-spiritual superstition. It owes nothing to the Eastern traditions."

"Of course there is a tradition of karma in Eastern religions, used initially as a tool to teach the simple fact that all actions have consequences and that people can have enormous

responsibility for their lives. But people often talk about it wrongly - in fatalistic terms. The idea that people would be burdened with a disability because of something they did in a previous life is not an accurate portrayal."

Whatever Hoddle believes, commentators can pinpoint his deteriorating relationship with the fans and the FA to the World Cup when his initial refusal to play David Beckham and Michael Owen became a source of national frustration.

His relationship with the England squad was severely strained by his World Cup diary - for which he was paid £200,000 - and his relationship with the FA was soured by his demands for a pay rise while refusing to commit himself beyond 2000.

## WAR OF WORDS

"Glenn's logic means that I must be a fairly disastrous football coach in a previous life."

David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education, who is blind

"What you sow, you have to reap. Let's say that you were in a fight and you broke someone's back, then possibly you would suffer from your actions in your next life."

Eileen Drewery, faith healer and Hoddle's mentor

"If they are true, his remarks are madness. People all over the country are watching loved ones suffer through no fault of their own. How are they expected to feel, reading what Hoddle is saying? Does he feel his comments are helpful?"

Scottish striker Ally McCoist, whose baby is in hospital

"It is disgusting for a man in his position to be talking like this. I take a boy in a wheelchair and a boy with Down's syndrome to matches. What are they going to think?"

Freda Murray, head of the Disabled Supporters' Association

"Thank God that Mother Teresa, Leonard Cheshire and Florence Nightingale, among others, didn't take the Hoddle view." Lord Morris of Manchester, the first minister for the disabled

Depending on the outcome of his meeting with Mr Thompson, his commitment may not be required beyond the end of this week.

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## Double Dutch life of a Tory leader in Europe

PAUL WAUGH  
Critical Correspondent

"OF ALL sexual perversions, chastity is the most peculiar." Quoting an obscure author to deflect from revelations about his homosexuality, the Tory MEP Tom Spencer was flamboyant right up to the last.

Although he reluctantly decided to step down last night, the 50-year-old father-of-three was defiant about his private life, the details of which had been splashed across the Sunday papers in conventionally prurient style.

Yet even by liberal Labour standards, let alone the strict moral sanctions of the Tory party, Mr Spencer's lifestyle was determinedly unconventional.

His wife, Liz, had known he was gay ever since the couple first met as students 26 years ago, and accepted that he would frequently make trips to Amsterdam and other places to indulge his pleasures.

"Like the song from Les Misérables, 'There are some things that are better left unsaid, better left unsaid,' she said. "We have always promised to be completely honest with each other and Thomas has always told me everything that I have asked him."



Tom Spencer with his wife, Liz, yesterday Les Wilson

Mrs Spencer made clear that she respected his double life and did not ask about his trips away or his sexual partners or the videos he watched.

However, even she was unaware of Mr Spencer's drug use, and the discovery of not just cannabis joints but cocaine was the main factor in the affair which was to ensure that he could no longer stand for the Tories at the European elections in June.

Mr Spencer had anyway become worried about the Tories' increasing Euroscepticism, and it was noticeable that Kenneth Clarke, the former Tory Chancellor, was a lone voice yesterday within the party to offer his support to the beleaguered MEP.

Last night Mr Spencer said: "At 5.45pm I spoke to Michael Ancram, the chairman of the Conservative Party, who has been kind enough to pay tribute

to the work I have done for the party."

"I have concluded it is in the best interests of all concerned that I should withdraw from the party's list for the next European elections."

The incident rounded off a disastrous week for the Tories, coming in the wake of reports of storms within the shadow cabinet and polls that gave the party their lowest rating since the election.

However, Conservative Central Office was last night trying to put a positive spin on the latest scandal sure to affect the party's already low popularity.

"This is a vindication of the system that William Hague has set up," one Tory source said. "In the past, the Tory party didn't have a centralised disciplinary structure and that's why you had the spectacle of people like [Neil] Hamilton dithering over resignation. Spencer saw which way the wind was blowing and went."

Last night Mr Spencer bowed out with the dignity that he and his wife had attempted to maintain throughout the most turbulent 24 hours of their lives.

"I would like to thank all the journalists whose individual courtesy has made the last two days bearable," he said.

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Matthew Parris (left) has had his show scrapped, but 'Today' with James Naughtie is picking up listeners



## Boyle is saved by Radio 4 recovery

THE FUTURE of James Boyle as Radio 4's controller will be bolstered this week by new listening figures showing that the station has recovered from its apparent reverses of earlier last year.

Official figures for the last quarter of 1998 will be released on Thursday. The BBC expects its Radio 4 audience to have pulled back above the crucial eight-million-a-week mark.

The corporation will use the data to argue that Mr Boyle's radically revamped schedule - which drew widespread criticism last year - is now succeeding.

Its own unofficial research shows that the number of listeners in October grew to 7.9 million from the 7.7 million per month for the third quarter of 1998. In November, the figure is thought to have increased by another 600,000.

BY PAUL MCCANN  
Media Editor

Mr Boyle had said that if his schedule changes did not work he would resign as controller. However, he had never claimed that the changes were designed to increase listening figures in the short term.

A number of long-standing programmes were dropped in last April's revamp, including *Sport on Four*, *Week Ending*, and *Kaleidoscope*, with 53 new shows being introduced. This was coupled with a £1m marketing campaign aimed at attracting a broader audience.

However, 90 per cent of letters received by Feedback, Radio 4's programme for listeners' points of view, opposed the changes.

If Thursday's official figures - released by the Radio Authority Joint Audience Research (Rajar) - are not as good



Radio 4 controller James Boyle and his wife, Marie, feel confident ahead of new audience figures John Voos

as expected, the BBC believes it will have a ready excuse: Radio 4's Test match cricket coverage during winter months often leads to a mass turn-off.

If the figures are good, the corporation will argue that previous audience research has been based on sample sizes that are too small to give an accurate picture.

"The problem has been that the research takes individual

snapshots of different listeners and we get these big swings," said a BBC insider. "The radio industry's research method is being changed later this year to give more continuity. That should iron out some of the anomalies such as Diana's death or the World Cup, which can have a bigger impact on the research than they actually have on listening."

Listening figures for the Today programme are known to have increased over the past three months as it has settled into its longer format.

Radio 4 is also confident that its post-9am programmes have been stronger after a number of changes, including the replacement of Matthew Parris's *Mothers and Sons*.

Further tinkering with the schedule this week will see the replacement of some of the

lunch-time quiz programmes, which the station has admitted are not working.

From tomorrow, the musical quiz *Full Orchestra* is being replaced by a music feature every Tuesday.

From Thursday, the struggling antiques quiz *Hidden Treasures* will give way to a repeat of the rural affairs programme *Open Country*.

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## Rescued climber sees colleague die in Alps

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

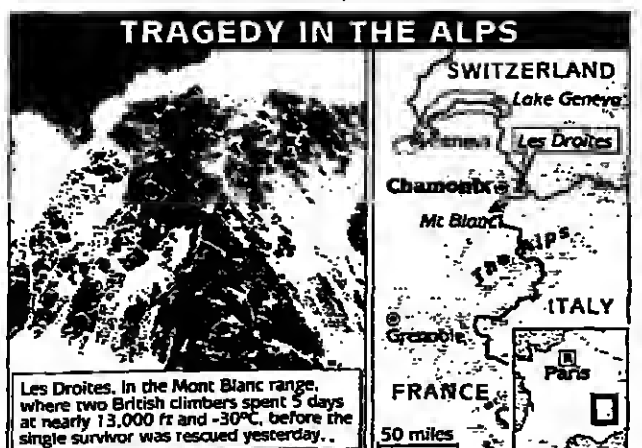
BRITISH climber trapped on a freezing mountain at 13,000ft for four days was lifted to safety yesterday by a helicopter rescue team that arrived too late to save his companion.

Jenkinson Andrew, 30, had been stuck on the isolated ridge in the French Alps since last Thursday and a previous rescue attempt had been forced back by the appalling weather. His companion who died was named as Jamie Fisher, 28.

Mr Andrew was in a critical condition in a French hospital last night. Doctors said he had been lucky to survive. Blaise Agresti, the police rescue team leader, said it was a miracle.

In a separate incident, a British snowboarder, Robert Coates, 26, died after he was hit by an avalanche on the same mountain. In response to the deaths, the French authorities issued an alert yesterday, advising against hiking and skiing off-piste.

Mr Andrew and Mr Fisher, both said to be experienced climbers from Edinburgh, had set off to tackle the Drottes peak, near Chamonix, in



Les Drottes. In the Mont Blanc range where two British climbers spent 5 days at nearly 13,000 ft and -30°C, before the single survivor was rescued yesterday.

France's Mont Blanc range, last Tuesday. They are believed to have made an attempt on the peak on Thursday but were stopped by a blizzard.

The alarm was raised by the father of one of the men but when rescuers tried to reach them on Saturday they were forced back by winds of 85mph, which made flying their helicopter impossible.

With snow continuing to fall in the area and the men's supplies running out, rescuers were concerned about their

physical condition, especially after spending so long in temperatures which at night plunged to minus 25C or even lower.

"They were in a very bad situation," said a French policeman, Jacky Paillet. "Besides the wind and the snow, they had to contend with temperatures of less than minus 25C."

In a break in the weather yesterday, rescuers flew to the men and used a winch to take them off. The rescue was described by

officials as "daring" but it arrived too late for Mr Fisher, who was already dead.

"The wind made the operation extremely dangerous," Mr Paillet added.

A spokesman from Chamonix Hospital said last night that Mr Andrew had a good chance of surviving the ordeal, now he was down from the mountain.

"The climber is in intensive care in a critical condition with hypothermia, but I think he will live," said the spokesman. "He was on the mountain for almost a week in freezing conditions and was very lucky to survive."

In a separate incident, Mr Coates, who worked in a hotel at the Alpe d'Huez ski station near Grenoble, had been snowed off-piste at 6,235ft on Saturday when the avalanche hit.

Rescuers took him in a coma to Nord Hospital in Grenoble, where he died yesterday.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said last night there had initially been problems with contacting the men's families. He said that relatives had now been informed.

## Thousands rush to beat tax deadline

BY JANE HUGHES

INLAND REVENUE offices opened for the first time on a Sunday yesterday to deal with last-minute attempts to submit income tax forms on time.

Queues formed at the revenue's office in west London, which dealt with 300 visitors an hour before it closed at 3pm. Many of the country's 300 tax offices were similarly inundated with desperate inquiries.

Many callers were trying to avoid paying the £100 fines for late returns.

But, with 1.8 million outstanding on Friday, it is likely that more than one million people will not have filed in time.

"We won't know how many tax returns we have had until Monday afternoon or Tuesday," said a revenue spokeswoman last night.

"Last year many returns were brought in in boxes by accountants on behalf of their clients, and the staff on duty over the weekend are there primarily to help people complete their returns."

The Inland Revenue said that it would accept no excuses for forms not returned by the

time its staff start work this morning.

Returns that were pushed through office letter boxes throughout last night would be accepted. However, officials warned that not all centres had that facility.

Last year - the first time that taxpayers had to deal with self-assessment - it fined 820,000 people who failed to submit them on time. This year's total is likely to be higher.

Any taxpayer who is self-employed, on the higher-rate or has income from properties has to complete the self-assessment forms.

If the returns contain any missing or incomplete sections they can be rejected, and taxpayers could still face the penalty fine.

Late payers will rack up interest charges and those who still owe tax for last year - April 1997 to April 1998 - also have to pay in full, otherwise the revenue will start adding interest to the amount they owe, calculated by the day.

From as little as

£26\*

## informative:

With effect from 1 February 1999 the following interest rates will apply:

TESSA			
All credit balances	Previous Rate	New Rate	
Interest paid annually	6.80% AER (Tax free)	6.55% AER (Tax free)	
High Interest Savings Account (minimum 20 Day Account)			
	Previous Rate	New Rate	
Credit Interest	AER	Gross	AER
Interest paid monthly	% p.a.	% p.a.	% p.a.
£1 to £999	3.10%	3.06%	3.00%
£1,000 to £2,499	3.60%	3.54%	3.50%
£2,500 to £49,999	4.10%	4.03%	3.75%
£50,000 and over			
Direct Interest Savings Account			
	Previous Rate	New Rate	
Credit Interest	AER	Gross	AER
Interest paid quarterly	% p.a.	% p.a.	% p.a.
£1 to £999	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%
£1,000 to £4,999	0.60%	0.58%	0.50%
£5,000 to £49,999	0.75%	0.68%	0.50%
£50,000 and over	0.80%	0.72%	0.50%

AER: Annual Equivalent Rate is a notional rate which illustrates what the gross rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year.

Tax free: the rate payable where the interest is exempt from the tax applicable to interest on savings.

Gross: the rate before the deduction of tax applicable to interest on savings.

Direct is a 30 day term of Midland Bank plc. Member HSBC Group

## IN BRIEF

### Barclays banking jobs set to go

HUNDREDS OF banking jobs are at risk after Barclays announced it is to trim £300m from its overheads. Cost-cutting is planned in its core high-street banking to try to restore its faltering share price. The first job losses are likely to affect the 300-strong marketing department.

### Australian nanny to be sentenced

NANNY LOUISE Sullivan appears at the Old Bailey today to be sentenced for shaking to death a six-month-old baby in her care. Australian-born Ms Sullivan, 27, has admitted the involuntary manslaughter of Caroline Jongen.

### Meningitis vaccine trials delayed

TRIALS TO develop a vaccine against meningitis are being delayed because parents are reluctant for their children to be tested with the drug. The problem may cause a year's delay in introducing it to the immunisation programme.

### Computer bugs pensioners

THOUSANDS OF pensioners are being short-changed as the Contributions Agency struggles to fix bugs in its new computer system. Some pensioners are losing up to £100 a week, although most will be around £125 short.

## Schools to contest smacking ban

BY MELANIE HARVEY

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS will go to the European Court of Human Rights within two months to challenge the government ban on corporal punishment.

The head teachers of 20 Christian schools have joined forces to fight the plans to outlaw physical discipline in independent schools. They say the ban is an infringement of "religious and parental" rights.

Philip Williamson, head of the Christian Fellowship School in Edge Hill, Liverpool, whose 200 pupils can be given corporal punishment, said: "The state has no right to interfere with the upbringing of children in the family unless there is some sort of assault or abuse going on. Where there is reasonable and monitored discipline then it is a case of the nanny state if they try and interfere."

They hope an application to the court in Strasbourg will persuade the Government to abandon the proposal, which is due to come into force in September as a clause in the School Standards and Framework Bill. The Bill was passed in the Commons

by three votes, but the leader of the Christian schools group says there is widespread support among parents and teachers for corporal punishment.

Philip Williamson, head of the Christian Fellowship School in Edge Hill, Liverpool, whose 200 pupils can be given corporal punishment, said: "The state has no right to interfere with the upbringing of children in the family unless there is some sort of assault or abuse going on. Where there is reasonable and monitored discipline then it is a case of the nanny state if they try and interfere."

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Treat the family with 3 nights for the price of 2 and the kids go free

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London 3 nights North of England 3 nights

London - Bloomsbury	£130	Bolton* (The Beaumont)	£84
London - Gatwick	£110	Brighouse	£100
London - Heathrow	£124	Carlisle	£88
London - Kensington	£138	Chester	£96
London - Regent's Park	£138	Grimsby	£84
		Haydock	£90
		Hull	£84
		Hull Marina	£104
		Lancaster	£88
		Leeds/Bradford	£104
		Leeds/Selly	£82
		Leeds* (The Queen's)	£120
		Liverpool* (The Gladstone)	£82
		Manchester	£82
		Manchester Airport	£100
		Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£84
		Preston	£84
		Sheffield	£90
		Teesside	£82
		Wakefield	£82
		Warrington/Runcorn	£88
		Washington	£80
		York	£90

South of England 3 nights

Ashford	£88	Leeds/Bradford	£104
Basingstoke	£86	Leeds/Selly	£82
Bexley	£88	Leeds* (The Queen's)	£120
Bristol	£104	Liverpool* (The Gladstone)	£82
Croydon	£92	Manchester	£82
Dover	£88	Manchester Airport	£100
Fareham	£96	Newcastle-upon-Tyne	£84
Farnborough	£108	Preston	£84
Guildford	£108	Sheffield	£90
Havant	£96	Teesside	£82
Hemel Hempstead	£88	Wakefield	£82
Maidstone/Sevenoaks	£98	Warrington/Runcorn	£88
Plymouth	£98	Washington	£80
Portsmouth	£100	York	£90
Reading	£92		
Rochester	£84		
South Mims	£96		
Southampton	£96		
Southampton/Eastleigh	£90		
Swindon	£92		
Taunton	£90		

East of England 3 nights

Basildon	£78		
Brentwood	£108		
Cambridge	£96		
Colchester	£92		
Epping	£90		
Ipwich	£88		
Norwich	£88		
Peterborough	£78		
Stevenage	£84		

\* Not part of the Posthouse brand

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\*based on 3 nights for the price of 2

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Aberdeen	£80		
Belfast	£74		
Cardiff	£88		
Cardiff City	£96		
Dublin Airport (IRE)	£114		
Edinburgh	£110		
Glasgow (Erskine Bridge)	£82		
Glasgow Airport	£76		
Glasgow City	£78		
Glasgow City	£90		
Swansea	£90		

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Prices are per person based on 3 nights accommodation (Fri/Sat and Sun) for two adults, 3 course dinner & VAT at 17.5% based on two people sharing a standard twin double room. For midweek availability and pricing call reservations for details. Up to 2 children under 12 stay and eat free when sharing a room with up to 2 adults - see Posthouse Terms & Conditions for full terms and conditions. All reservations are subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at these promotional rates. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion. Single occupancy supplements apply.

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A Division of Post Hotels





Dame Judi Dench holds court as Elizabeth I in 'Shakespeare in Love'. She was so taken by the film's full-size replica theatre she bought it

## Dame Judi picks Rose that grew on her

A FULL-SIZE replica of the Rose Theatre made for the hit film *Shakespeare in Love* has been acquired by Dame Judi Dench as a souvenir.

The actress, who was nominated for a Golden Globe for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth I in the film, fell for the replica of Shakespeare's first theatre during filming. "I was so taken with the whole thing that they actually gave me the replica, which

BY JANE HUGHES

was built at Shepperton Studios," she said. "I am now paying for it to be stored. I want it to be used as a working theatre and I am in negotiation for a site," she said in a magazine interview.

Dame Judi revealed that her actor husband, Michael Williams, had told her she was "absolutely mad" to take on the theatre set. She put her decision

down to the power the film exerted over those involved in making it, saying: "That is what *Shakespeare in Love* has done to us all."

The set of the Rose was built to resemble the "wooden O" that staged Shakespeare's plays before The Globe in Southwark, south London, was built. It is a half-timbered building with an apron stage, open-air standing room and tiered

galleries for the good seats. A spokeswoman for the Globe said designers from the film had visited the theatre and that the replica was "very well done".

However, she questioned whether the film set would be sufficiently strong to take a full audience.

Dame Judi is one of the artistic directors at the Globe, the £5.5m replica of the original Globe and the only theatre in

Britain staging Shakespeare's work as it would originally have been seen - in open air and natural light.

The actress came to fame playing Ophelia in *Hamlet* in 1967 and was a stalwart of the Royal Shakespeare Company in the 1960s.

*Shakespeare in Love*, which opened this weekend, has already been hailed as Britain's best movie of 1999.

# Restaurants told to label modified food

ALL RESTAURANTS and supermarkets are to be forced to identify which of their products and meals contain genetically modified food, the Government revealed yesterday.

Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, announced that he was going to introduce rules "within weeks" to ensure customers could exercise their right to boycott genetically modified products.

A European Union directive, which requires supermarkets and other shops to label clearly which products contain the controversial foodstuffs, would be incorporated into British law, he said.

To give as much information to the public as possible, all restaurant menus will also have to list any genetically modified ingredients, a move that would mean the UK has the toughest labelling rules in Europe.

The move follows intense pressure on the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food from the Department of Health to respond to widespread consumer concern about the lack of information.

Green groups and others believe that so-called "Frankenstein Foods" may pose serious dangers to human health and the environment, and want more stringent controls on their distribution.

To date, most attention has focused on the controversy surrounding the planting of genetically modified crops in the UK by the American biotechnology giant Monsanto.

However, environmental groups claim that up to 60 per cent of processed foods are

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

genetically modified and supermarkets are flooding the market without telling the consumer. Several products, such as tomato puree, vegetable "ready" meals and cheese, sold by many of the big supermarket chains, contain genetically modified soya and similar ingredients.

Mr Brown said the genetically modified foods on the market were "perfectly safe", but the public had a right to know what it was buying.

"I think labelling schemes are very important in this area and I defend the right of the consumer who says 'I absolutely demand the right not to consume genetically modified foodstuffs'," he told LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme. "People are entitled to make that choice and they should be able to consume clearly with that intention in the market place."

"Indeed when they eat out, when they go to restaurants, they should also be able to consume food that they know does not contain GMOs [genetically modified organisms] - if that is what they want to do."

There is a European Union directive now, and we're framing it so that it works in United Kingdom law. Asked when it would come into force, he said: "I would have said weeks rather than months."

It was revealed last week that the Health Minister Tessa Jowell is backing a plan to use supermarket loyalty cards to monitor exactly how many ge-

netically modified products are sold in the UK.

The scheme, drawn up by the Government's Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes, will use information from Safeway, Sainsbury and Tesco loyalty cards to compare the results with health statistics to see if genetically modified products have any impact on allergies, cancer or even childbirth.

Leading food and drink writers such as Derek Cooper and Fay Maschler recently joined a Greenpeace campaign against genetically modified foods, claiming that their introduction was "a genetic experiment on the public which could have irreversible adverse consequences".

Environmental campaigners are lobbying ministers to impose a moratorium on the commercial release of genetically modified crops until more research is available into their impact on humans and other plants and animals.

The Ministry of Agriculture has so far refused the demands for a moratorium, and allows limited commercial development of the crops. The ministry claims that the safeguards provided by the Government are sufficient.

Mr Brown also confirmed yesterday that an announcement on the beef-on-the-bone ban would be made within the next few days, and gave a hint that it would be lifted.

"I shall be saying something to Parliament soon, very soon. I have said very clearly that as soon as I could lift the ban I would do so. I want to do so," he said.

## Morse Code's final dash

FULL WORLDWIDE implementation of a new ship distress and communication system comes in today - ending 160 years of Morse code.

British use of the familiar dots-and-dash Morse system of signalling ended in December 1997 and the new distress system will mean its phasing out worldwide. The new method - which all main British shipping operators already have in place - is called the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System.

It is an integrated communications system using satellite

BY PETER WOODMAN

and terrestrial radiocommunications to ensure that no matter where a ship is in distress, aid can be dispatched.

Under International Maritime Organisation (IMO) rules, all passenger and cargo ships of more than 300 gross tons on international voyages have to carry specified satellite and radiocommunication equipment for sending and receiving distress alerts, maritime safety information and for general

communications. The new system also requires ships to carry satellite emergency positioning indicating beacons, which float free from a sinking ship and alert rescue authorities to the ship's identity and location.

"We now have in place a system which should ensure that no ship in distress can disappear without trace and that more lives can be saved at sea," said the IMO's secretary-general, William O'Neill.

Morse was invented by Samuel Morse, a Massachusetts portrait painter, in the 1830s.

## Important news for Norwich and Peterborough customers.

### Important News for Borrowers

The rate of interest for new and existing mortgage customers (in appropriate cases the basic rate) will decrease by 0.25% with effect from 1st February 1999. The Society's standard variable base rate will become 7.20%.

The new rate continues to reflect our commitment to mutuality and the benefits this brings to customers.

Fixed rate mortgages will not be affected during the contractual fixed rate period. There will also be no change to the interest rates for existing Secured Personal Loans regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

In cases where mortgage interest rate changes are subject to notice, the decrease will take place after the appropriate notice period which will commence on 1st February 1999.

For customers participating in the Society's annual review procedure, this interest rate change will be taken into account when calculating new monthly payments at the next review in early 2000 or, in appropriate cases, the anniversary of the mortgage.

### New Rates for Savers

With effect from 1st February 1999

PREVIOUS	NEW	PREVIOUS	NEW
Gross Net AER	Gross Net AER	Gross Net AER	Gross Net AER
Special 55			

AS class - notice	AS class - notice	AS class - notice	AS class - notice
Annual interest option	Annual interest option	Annual interest option	Annual interest option

£100,000 and over	£100,000 and over	£100,000 and over	£100,000 and over
£100,000 - £199,999	£100,000 - £199,999	£100,000 - £199,999	£100,000 - £199,999

£200,000 - £299,999	£200,000 - £299,999	£200,000 - £299,999	£200,000 - £299,999
£300,000 - £399,999	£300,000 - £399,999	£300,000 - £399,999	£300,000 - £399,999

£400,000 - £499,999	£400,000 - £499,999	£400,000 - £499,999	£400,000 - £499,999
£500,000 - £599,999	£500,000 - £599,999	£500,000 - £599,999	£500,000 - £599,999

£600,000 - £699,999	£600,000 - £699,999	£600,000 - £699,999	£600,000 - £699,999
£700,000 - £799,999	£700,000 - £799,999	£700,000 - £799,999	£700,000 - £799,999

£800,000 - £899,999	£800,000 - £899,999	£800,000 - £899,999	£800,000 - £899,999
£900,000 - £999,999	£900,000 - £999,999	£900,000 - £999,999	£900,000 - £999,999

£1,000,000 and over	£1,000,000 and over	£1,000,000 and over	£1,000,000 and over
£1,000,000 - £1,999,999	£1,000,000 - £1,999,999	£1,000,000 - £1,999,999	£1,000,000 - £1,999,999

£2,000,000 - £2,999,999	£2,000,000 - £2,999,999	£2,000,000 - £2,999,999	£2,000,000 - £2,999,999
£3,000,000 - £3,999,999	£3,000,000 - £3,999,999	£3,000,000 - £3,999,999	£3,000,000 - £3,999,999

£4,000,000 - £4,999,999	£4,000,000 - £4,999,999	£4,000,000 - £4,999,999	£4,000,000 - £4,999,999
£5,000,000 - £5,999,999	£5,000,000 - £5,999,999	£5,000,000 - £5,999,999	£5,000,000 - £5,999,999

£6,000,000 - £6,999,999	£6,000,000 - £6,999,999	£6,000,000 - £6,999,999	£6,000,000 - £6,999,999
£7,000,000 - £7,999,999	£7,000,000 - £7,999,999	£7,000,000 - £7,999,999	£7,000,000 - £7,999,999

£8,000,000 - £8,999,999	£8,000,000 - £8,999,999	£8,000,000 - £8,999,999	£8,000,000 - £8,999,999
£9,000,000 - £9,999,999	£9,000,000 - £9,999,999	£9,000,000 - £9,999,999	£9,000,000 - £9,999,999

£10,000,000 and over	£10,000,000 and over	£10,000,000 and over	£10,000,000 and over
£10,000,000 - £19,999,999	£10,000,000 - £19,999,999	£10,000,000 - £19,999,999	£10,000,000 - £19,999,999

£20,000,000 - £29,999,999	£20,000,000 - £29,999,999	£20,000,000 - £29,999,999	£20,000,000 - £29,999,999
£30,000,000 - £39,999,999	£30,000,000 - £39,999,999	£30,000,000 - £39,999,999	£30,000,000 - £39,999,999

£40,000,000 - £49,999,999	£40,000,000 - £49,999,999	£40,000,000 - £49,999,999	£40,000,000 - £49,999,999
£50,000,000 and over	£50,000,000 and over	£50,000,000 and over	£50,000,000 and over

£50,000,000 - £59,999,999	£50,000,000 - £59,999,999	£50,000,000 - £59,999,999	£50,000,000 - £59,999,999
£60,000,000 - £69,999,999	£60,000,000 - £69,999,999	£60,000,000 - £69,999,999	£60,000,000 - £69,999,999

£70,000,000 - £79,999,999	£70,000,000 - £79,999,999	£70,000,000 - £79,999,999	£70,000,000 - £79,999,999
£80,000,000 - £89,999,999	£80,000,000 - £89,999,999	£80,000,000 - £89,999,999	£80,000,000 - £89,999,999

£90,000,000 - £99,999,999	£90,000,000 - £99,999,999	£90,000,000 - £99,999,999	£90,000,000 - £99,999,999
£100,000,000 and over	£100,000,000 and over	£100,000,000 and over	£100,000,000 and over

PREVIOUS	NEW	PREVIOUS	NEW
Gross Net AER	Gross Net AER	Gross Net AER	Gross Net AER
Special 55			

AS class - notice	AS class - notice	AS class - notice	AS class - notice
Annual interest option	Annual interest option	Annual interest option	Annual interest option

£100,000 and over	£100,000 and over	£100,000 and over	£100,000 and over
£100,000 - £199,999	£100,000 - £199,999	£100,000 - £199,999	£100,000 - £199,999

£200,000 - £299,999	£200,000 - £299,999	£200,000 - £299,999	£200,000 - £299,999
£300,000 - £399,999	£300,000 - £399,999	£300,000 - £399,999	£300,000 - £399,999

£400,000 - £499,999	£400,000 - £499,999	£400,000 - £499,999	£400,000 - £499,999
£500,000 - £599,999	£500,000 - £599,999	£500,000 - £599,999	£500,000 - £599,999

£600,000 - £699,999	£600,000 - £699,999	£600,000 - £699,999	£600,000 - £699,999
£700,000 - £799,999	£700,000 - £799,999	£700,000 - £799,999	£700,000 - £799,999

£800,000 - £899,999	£800,000 - £899,999	£800,000 - £899,999	£800,000 - £899,999
£900,000 - £999,999	£900,000 - £999,999	£900,000 - £999,999	£900,000 - £999,999

£1,000,000 and over	£1,000,000 and over	£1,000,000 and over	£1,000,000 and over
£1,000,000 - £1,999,999	£1,000,000 - £1,999,999	£1,000,000 - £1,999,999	£1,000,000 - £1,999,999

£2,000,000 - £2,999,999	£2,000,000 - £2,999,999	£2,000,000 - £2,999,999	£2,000,000 - £2,999,999
£3,000,000 - £3,999,999	£3,000,000 - £3,999,999	£3,000,000 - £3,999,999	£3,000,000 - £3,999,999

£4,000,000 - £4,999,999	£4,000,000 - £4,999,999	£4,000,000 - £4,999,999	£4,000,000 - £4,999,999
£5,000,000 - £5,999,999	£5,000,000 - £5,999,999	£5,000,000 - £5,999,999	£5,000,000 - £5,999,999

£6,000,000 - £6,999,999	£6,000,000 - £6,999,999	£6,000,000 - £6,999,999	£6,000,000 - £6,999,999
£7,000,000 - £7,999,999	£7,000,000 - £7,999,999	£7,000,000 - £7,999,999	£7,000,000 - £7,999,999

£8,000,000 - £8,999,999	£8,000,000 - £8,999,999	£8,000,000 - £8,999,999	£8,000,000 - £8,999,999
£9,000,000 - £9,999,999	£9,000,000 - £9,999,999	£9,000,000 - £9,999,999	£9,000,000 - £9,999,999

£10,000,000 and over	£10,000,000 and over	£10,000,000 and over	£10,000,000 and over
£10,000,000 - £19,999,999	£10,000,000 - £19,999,999	£10,000,000 - £19,999,999	£10,000,000 - £19,999,999

£20,000,000 - £29,999,999	£20,000,000 - £29,999,999	£20,000,000 - £29,999,999	£20,000,000 - £29,999,999
£30,000,000 - £39,999,999	£30,000,000 - £39,999,999	£30,000,000 - £39,999,999	£30,000,000 - £39,999,999

£40,000,000 - £49,999,999	£40,000,000 - £49,999,999	£40,000,000 - £49,999,999	£40,000,000 - £49,999,999
£50,000,000 and over	£50,000,000 and over	£50,000,000 and over	£50,000,000 and over

£50,000,000 - £59,999,999	£50,000,000 - £59,999,999	£50,000,000 - £59,999,999	£50,000,000 - £59,999,999
£60,000,000 - £69,999,999	£60,000,000 - £69,999,999	£60,000,000 - £69,999,999	£60,000,000 - £69,999,999

£70,000,000 - £79,999,999	£70,000,000 - £79,999,999	£70,000,000 - £79,999,999	£70,000,000 - £79,999,999
£80,000,000 - £89,999,999	£80,000,000 - £89,999,999	£80,000,000 - £89,999,999	£80,000,000 - £89,999,999

£90,000,000 - £99,999,999	£90,000,000 - £99,999,999	£90,000,000 - £99,999,999	£90,000,000 - £99,999,999
£100,000,000 and over	£100,000,000 and over	£100,000,000 and over	£100,000,000 and over

£100,000,000 - £199,999,999	£100,000,000 - £199,999,999	£100,000,000 - £199,999,999	
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THE INDEPENDENT  
Monday 1 February 1999

# THE GLOBAL CRISIS

A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ECONOMY

7



Traders at the Stock Exchange in Tokyo. Beneath the surface, drastic changes are overtaking the Japanese middle class as people born into the promise of lifetime employment are made redundant

Mark Cator/Impact

## Once, his business could do no wrong. Now he weeps for the shame and loss

### JAPAN THE END OF GROWTH

TO SEE a Japanese weep publicly is rare, certainly a man as calm and intelligent as Masatoshi Nakajima.

For more than an hour he has kept his composure, as he talks about his depression, his thoughts of suicide and the mysterious fevers brought on by stress.

When he remembers his former employees - 17 of them, laid off at a stroke - he shakes his head sadly. His face flushes when he speaks of his family, furrowed to move out of their expensive apartment, his daughter who had to give up university, and his wife, compelled to take a job on a supermarket checkout.

But the thought that moves him to tears is of the friends and clients he never sees any more, because of their embarrassment and his own shame. "For the first time I've felt the reality of losing people. I've had to watch people drawing away from me," he says.

"I suppose that even during the good years, I knew that the boom couldn't last for ever. But I thought that my own life and my own business would be insulated from all that. Now I know it's not true." And in the cafe of one of Tokyo's most expensive hotels, over his 25 cup of coffee, Masatoshi Nakajima weeps.

There is a strange air of dislocation in Japan these days: despite the current recession, the worst since the war, the country looks much the same as ever.

The glossy sheen of the 1980s has not yet worn off the shiny office buildings and department stores, or the immaculately dressed people who work and shop in them. But this impression is as superficial as Mr Nakajima's calm, for beneath the surface drastic changes are overtaking the Japanese middle class: all over Tokyo the gloss is coming off at the touch.

Yesterday afternoon, Tokyo's oldest department store, founded in 1662, closed its doors for the last time. In 1991, at the height of the famous "bubble economy", it made 57 billion yen (\$305m at current rate). But last year it lost 95m, as the consumers who sustained it for 37 years sensed that the good times were over and stopped spending. On Friday, the government embarked on its latest desperate plan to encourage shoppers - free spending vouchers, 2.8 billion of which will be handed out among the young and elderly.

You understand why when you see them in the job centre of Shinjuku, one of Tokyo's biggest boroughs - managers, architects, and engineers, born into the promise of lifetime employment at a single company, suddenly faced with the shocking fact of redundancy.

A man in his fifties weeps as he fills out the application forms; despite a fractional decrease in unemployment last month, the job centre's manager says that in 27 years he has never seen times as bad as this.

Around the corner at the town hall, 200 homeless men



Masatoshi Nakajima, who had to lay off his 17 employees because of the recession

Stuart Isett/Sygnia

queue for dry hiccups. Yesterday it was reported that there are 20,000 homeless people in Japan, up from 16,000 just last summer, and among the cracked pumps and donkey jackets are beginning to appear leather shoes and suits, as former white-collar workers are forced to the edge of desperation.

Meanwhile in the coffee shop of the Ginza Tokyo Hotel, one of the most luxurious and expensive in Japan, Mr Nakajima sits in the corner, describing how his life fell to pieces.

He is typical of those thrown on to hard times, a competent, but not especially ambitious businessman, who none the less seemed unable to do anything wrong. Mr Nakajima's business was fish importing in Tokyo's famous fish market, Tsukiji. His firm, Miyoshi Trading, bought and sold crabs, lobsters and salmon with the aid of frequent short-term bank loans.

The borrowing was a mere formality - after a few years as their customer, Japanese banks would lend him whatever he asked, without collateral, or any detailed business plan. At times his debts would amount to as much as 1.3 billion yen (\$7m).

He became depressed, and experienced suicidal flashes. "There was something very

psychological happening to my nervous system. I had high fevers without any good reason."

Five years ago, Mr Nakajima didn't know anyone unemployed; now he has eight friends who have been sacked, lost their businesses or been pressured into early retirement.

In absolute terms, there are far more desolate stories in other parts of Asia.

By the end of this year, 130 million Indonesians will be living in poverty, out of a population of 200 million. In South Korea, until recently among the top 10 of the world's richest countries, destitute families have been reduced to putting their children in orphanages. But these are countries with recent memories of hardship and struggle.

In Japan, an arrangement that has been in place for 54 years is unravelling, with the end of growth, the end of full employment and the end of jobs for life. The country's very success has left its people uniquely ill-equipped to deal with recession. "Japan is at a turning point," said Mr Nakajima. "You can't just rely on nice relationships any more. All we can do is put up with this hardship and wait for spring to come."

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY TOKYO

## Sadly, there is no magic wand for us to fix it

FOR ONE week each year the Swiss ski resort of Davos becomes the centre of the world economy. Just about everyone who will help to shape the direction of the economy assembles in Davos for the World Economic Forum.

This year there is Al Gore, Robert Rubin and Larry Summers from the US administration. There is Gordon Brown, naturally, and his counterparts from most of the other big developed nations. Gerhard Schröder, the new German Chancellor, came up at the weekend. From the world outside the rich countries' club came Nelson Mandela, who received a standing ovation, and Mohamed Mahathir, who was rather less warmly greeted.

But this is not just a politicians' show: it is the place where business leaders meet them. Name a prominent business leader - Bill Gates, perhaps, or Jürgen Schrempp of DaimlerChrysler - and they too are up here. This is the place where the people who make the tough decisions about employment and investment meet the people who set the rules under which they do so.

So what, this year are these people saying about the state of the world economy? Are they confident, even arrogant, or worried and frightened, or are they more

puzzled and maybe angry? They are all of those.

We talk about the global market place - the multinationals operate in scores of different countries; and the new technologies allow instant transfer of information from one part of the globe to another. But the different bits of the world are experiencing utterly different economic conditions. These different experiences naturally colour people's perceptions. If your country, your business, or maybe just your own personal finances are doing well you feel quite different than if they are doing badly.

The greatest contrast within the developed world is between the US and Japan. Japan is struggling to escape the worst recession since the Second World War. That drags down the entire region, for Japan, the world's second largest economy, even in recession still produces two-thirds of East Asia's output. The US, by contrast, is still enjoying the longest boom since the Second World War. The economy is now in its eighth year of strong growth but far from flagging seems to be putting on a new spurt. In the last three months of last year growth was running at an annual rate of more than 5 per cent.

You might imagine this would make the Americans pretty cocky.

There is certainly a bit of that but it is tempered by the knowledge that the result of this differential growth has been a growing imbalance between the two countries.

Booming America sucks in imports; flat Japan buys less and less from other countries. American external debts are now so large that despite the enormous assets of US multinationals around the world, the US now has a deficit on its interest and dividend account as well as the much larger one on physical trade. It is having to borrow to pay the interest on its previous debts.

America is running a very large trade deficit with other countries. This cannot go on. As Al Gore told the Davos forum, the US could not be "the importer at only resort" to the rest of the world.

This message was emphasised by Robert Rubin, the US treasury secretary, who used the word "crisis" to describe the state of the world economy. He argued that while part of the trade imbalance between the US on the one hand and Europe and Japan on the other was the result of their different positions in the economic cycle, it was also that the US had a more open attitude to accepting imports from other countries than did Europe or Japan.



HAMISH MCRAE

*'The most likely thing that will happen to the world economy will be a series of patches to the system'*

A threat of a trade war? No, absolutely not. There are currently efforts being made to get a new world trade agreement going, one that will extend trade liberalisation from trade in goods to other aspects of global trade such as trade in services and the growth of foreign investment. The US supports this. But expect it to be a tougher, rougher negotiator.

Besides, from a world perspective it is not safe to rely on one country to keep the show going. Suppose the US stock market cracks, an off-

spoken fear here in Davos. US consumers will surely cut their spending. If they do that, imports will fall.

Within Europe the response has been pretty muted. Continental European politicians have been so absorbed by the introduction of the euro that the fact that their own consumers remain cautious has been pushed to one side. And of course Britain, outside euroland, is not going to get much growth this year, even if things turn out rather better than the growth of 0.5 to 1 per cent now expected.

Heiner Flassbeck, Oskar Lafontaine's deputy in Germany, made the point that the world was dealing with a new problem, one of which none of the policy-makers had any experience: the problem of deflation. People do not know how to operate in a world of falling prices.

If the United States falters, Japan does not recover and Europe fails to grow faster the countries that will be hardest hit will be those of the developing world. Some parts of East Asia - Korea and Thailand for example - seem to be making reasonable recoveries from the catastrophe of the past year. But others have yet to see much growth.

Meanwhile, the crisis in Brazil threatens a knock-on effect on the whole of Latin America. As so often

happens, those least able to withstand a fall in income are those most likely to be hurt.

Other problems - Russia, the Middle East, the former Yugoslavia - rumble on and in terms of global security may, heaven forbid, present even greater threats to world stability than these economic pressures. But viewed in economic terms the key threat is the imbalance between the United States and the rest of the world. The world cannot fly on one wing.

So what is to be done? Perhaps the most telling comment came from Robert Rubin, who said several times that there was "no magic wand" to fix world economic problems. Mr Rubin was the senior partner of Goldman Sachs, the New York investment banking partnership, and as he reminded us, had spent 26 years on Wall Street before joining the administration.

He argued that the market economy, for all its flaws, had delivered a great increase in wealth for much of the globe. It needed to be controlled, for unfettered markets could not cope with all the challenges the world faced. They had also to be supported by social policies designed to reduce inequalities both within countries and between them.

But he was pretty sceptical of some of the plans around. For

example, the idea of target zones for currencies, favoured by the French, or our Chancellor's idea of an early warning system for global financial problems. His years on Wall Street suggested it could not be done. Not only could you never see problems coming, if you tried to spot them you might create other problems.

Whether that is right, it is surely true the world has to try to find a way of fine-tuning the market economy. Many people remain profoundly suspicious of the process of globalisation and given the excesses of financial markets it is not hard to see why. The triumphalism of a couple of years ago has been replaced by questioning and concern.

The most likely thing that will happen to the world economy over the next few years will be a series of patches to the present system. But the greatest difficulty will not be correcting the errors of the past but learning how to run the market economy in a world where prices are just as likely to go down as up. There has been no period of sustained price stability for a century.

Is the world economy in bad shape? That depends where you look. But the one thing common in the regions that are up and those that are down, those that are rich and those that are poor, is that the great 20th-century inflation is over.



# Spend, spend, spend in the land of plenty

"YOU'RE NOT going to get me to predict that the US economy will carry on expanding for another 20 years," says George Perry, a senior fellow at Brookings Institution in Washington. "But it is very healthy."

The country's longest peacetime expansion will end only when the Federal Reserve decides it has to start raising interest rates to fight inflation, according to this seasoned observer. With commodity prices falling and wage pressures negligible, he sees no danger of that for now.

The American economy has experienced an astonishing seven years of plenty since the last recession troughed in 1992. Is it being superstitious to believe that fast growth, negligible unemployment and low inflation simply cannot last?

The reason more and more economists are predicting a slowdown lies in the very reason for the long expansion. Consumers are spending like there's no tomorrow. That appears to say something very ominous about tomorrow.

The gloomy view is that the ordinary Americans driving the expansion will pull in their horns, probably because of a Wall Street crash, and start to rebuild their savings from the current historic low of zero. Never in all of US history has the private sector borrowed so much to finance its spending.

Typical forecasts from Wall Street economists suggest outright recession lies in store for the second half of this year. The very gloomiest see a potential repetition of the great crash of 1929. More individuals hold shares than at any time in the intervening 70 years. If share prices were to fall sharply, they would all feel a lot poorer. Rather than spending all their income as they are now doing in aggregate, they will start to save.

Some calculations of the impact of shares on wealth and spending suggest share prices

## UNITED STATES WALL STREET HAS WORRIES

would have to carry on rising exponentially even to keep growth on its long-term trend, never mind sustain it at the 5 per cent-plus pace it attained at the end of last year. And, Internet bubble or not, that simply is not going to happen.

Indeed, any setback in the stock market runs the risk of stemming the tide of foreign money invested in American assets. The US has become the world's biggest debtor nation, so much in hock that new investment is needed to pay the interest and dividends on existing foreign investment. The tide of finance is being sucked in by a record balance of payments deficit, in turn caused by high-spending American consumers and companies buying more in imports than they sell in exports.

If it starts to unravel, the dollar could plunge and touch off higher inflation as import prices rise. The Fed would have to raise interest rates then.

This is the outlook implied by, for example, the latest forecasts from the International Monetary Fund. Its concern is that any sharp slowdown in the US would make it impossible for the rest of the world to get through the continuing financial crisis without severe pain. A gradual adjustment would be the ideal, but many economists believe that such extreme circumstances will actually trigger extreme adjustments.

The IMF is well aware that its economic forecasts in the wake of the series of financial crises have been over-optimistic, partly because the governments of afflicted countries were reluctant to publish appropriately pessimistic growth forecasts. Privately, the

IMF is concerned that the global economy is on the verge of a third wave of upheaval since the Asian crisis in the summer of 1997 and the Russian collapse in the summer of last year.

With Europe growing too slowly to mop up exports from Asia and Latin America, that puts a huge burden on the continuing might of the US economy. This American expansion needs to make history to prevent the world as a whole from a disastrous future.

Yet Mr Perry is not alone in his optimism. Administration officials are more cautious but equally insist that the economy is fundamentally strong.

Robert Shapiro, under-secretary at the Commerce Department and a longstanding adviser to President Clinton, says: "The underlying strength of the US economy convinces me there is no danger of a great crash." Inflation is low, investment high, productivity improving and the economy free from distortions, he argues.

Past crises, such as the bankruptcy of "savings and loans" banks in the early 1990s, and the recession earlier this decade that forced a wave of corporate downsizing, have left the economy strong and flexible. He argues that the apparent sign of weakness—the trade deficit and reliance on foreign funds—is, in reality, a sign of American strength. "It does not signal great distortion in the economy, but rather relative weakness elsewhere in the world." The real weaknesses are not to be found on the big canvas of trade balances and financial flows, but in the microeconomic foundations of skill levels, embedded poverty and inequality. "The market economy is a great paradigm for producing wealth, but not for distributing it," says Mr Shapiro.

DIANE COYLE  
WASHINGTON



American shops like this K-Mart in Kansas are enjoying a bull market for bears and other items as the economy continues to boom AP

## Teddy bears make life a picnic for market's happy retailers

VENTURE INSIDE the Merchandise Mart in downtown Chicago, a 1930s Art Deco monolith so large that it has a postal code all of its own, and you are given a glimpse of the state of the economy in the city and beyond across the American Midwest. Powered by strong consumer confidence, it continues to boom.

True, there are areas of weakness. Farming is in crisis in the region, largely because of collapsing hog prices. And an unemployment rate that dipped to a meagre 3.6 per cent in the Midwest last year means that finding qualified workers has become a nightmare for many employers. But the plenitude of

jobs, with low interest rates, negligible inflation and high stock prices, continues to deliver prosperity.

There is nothing bearish, for example, about the mood at Russ Berrie and Co, America's best-known teddy-bear wholesaler, which has a showroom for the retail trade in the Mart. A new high-end product line of "Vintage Bears" launched last month was sold out within two weeks. Each bear sells to retailers for \$30 (£18) or more. Business in the showroom is up 1,000 per cent over past year.

"Customers have walked in and placed orders for \$30,000 on the spot," reports Geoffrie Cereze, the sales director, who

says a strong retail performance over Christmas helped to fuel demand. "Since the new year, business has been rocking. What is amazing is that we would sell so many of these bears so quickly."

One floor below Russ Berrie is Smartrooms Inc, a supplier of custom cabinets for kitchens and bathrooms. Its business is benefiting from an explosion of new-home sales across the Midwest.

"Brutally swamped," is the best description that James Livingston, Smartrooms' vice-president, can offer for the state of his business.

How long can it last? "You have to reach a saturation

point, and I can kind of foresee that," he replies, pointing out that one day there will be more new homes than people to live in them. "But I think we have probably got another three years left. I sure hope so."

The scramble by employers to find skilled workers may soon become critical, however, which in turn could spell pressure on wages and a new inflation threat. One Chicago-based bank, TCF National, said it was even sending scouts into city shopping malls. "If we're being waited on by somebody who's very good, like at a shoe store, we try to recruit them," said a spokesman.

For recruitment firms, such

as Esquire Staffing Group, the pressure to find workers is relentless. "I've never seen anything like this in the 40 years I've been in the business," says Esquire's chief executive, Sherwin Fischer. His consultants simply can't find enough people to fill the vacancies. "Our people are nervous wrecks and they don't dare take any time off because they're making \$2,000 a day."

Only a few months ago, Mr Fischer was confidently predicting at least a slowdown during 1999, but now he is not so sure. "Frankly, I don't see an end to it."

DAVID USBORNE  
CHICAGO

## Clinton's 'solid footing' leaves a lot to be desired

THE BUDGET of the United States government will run an estimated surplus totalling \$4.5 trillion (£2.8 trillion) over the next 15 years. Such long-range estimates are suspect, of course. One cannot possibly predict government revenues and expenditures that far ahead. The important point, though, is not the exactitude of the estimate, but the remarkable fact that, according to virtually all forecasts, the United States is running a very large budget surplus, and is expected to continue to do so.

This is an extraordinary turnaround. Yet budget surpluses on their own are neither good nor bad. The question is how the government uses the surpluses. In his recent State of the Union Address, Bill Clinton gave a worrisome answer.

First, some background. In the early 1980s, after Ronald Reagan cut taxes and boosted spending on defence, his budget director, David Stockman, predicted budget deficits



ROBERT REICH

*"Just about the only people on the planet still buying like mad are Americans, and they cannot keep it up much longer."*

in the range of \$200 billion a year, "as far as the eye can see". Stockman's forecast was correct. For the next 12 years, deficits mounted, and the US government's debt steadily grew. When Clinton was elected

president in November 1992, before he officially took the reins, he asked me to oversee the initial work of preparing his first budget. We discovered that the deficit for 1993 alone was likely to be \$300 billion, or more.

Besides Monica Lewinsky and a congressional impeachment, Clinton is likely to be best remembered for being the president who restored fiscal discipline to the United States government. His first budget reduced public spending and increased taxes, and thus set the country on the course of deficit reduction. The initial goal was modest: reduce the deficit as a proportion of the national product, from almost 3 per cent to about 2.5 per cent. But the goal became more ambitious, as the American public began to equate fiscal prudence with the nation's economic vigour.

If cutting the deficit by half was good policy, eliminating it entirely would appear to be even better policy. To extend the logic one step further, if

balancing the budget was a worthy objective, then, presumably, accumulating budget surpluses would be worthier still.

In his recent State of the Union message to Congress, Clinton proposed just this. Dangling the prospect of giving the surplus back to Americans in the form of a tax cut, and the wishes of many Democrats to spend the surpluses on such things as healthcare for the growing number of Americans who have none, the President insisted that most of the surpluses be saved. That way, he said, the government will have enough money to pay the postwar "baby-boom" generation retirees, more than three decades from now.

Saving the surpluses is the most fiscally conservative course by far. Its practical effect will be to reduce the national debt in the next few years—from about 45 per cent of national product to about 15 per cent. This will be the lowest level of na-

tional debt since before the First World War.

Many economists have applauded the President's fiscal prudence. Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, is strongly supportive. Saving the surpluses and reducing the national debt will free money for the private sector. Businesses and individuals will be able to spend more and invest more, without risking inflation. The American economy will be on "a more solid footing", to quote the phrase that has been used repeatedly in praise of the President's plan.

But suppose your biggest worry isn't inflation, and the corresponding concern that public borrowing may "crowd out" private investing. Suppose, like me, your biggest worry is the very real possibility of worldwide deflation. You see that the global economy is rapidly approaching overcapacity. There isn't nearly enough purchasing power to consume everything the United

States and the rest of the world are capable of producing.

Some 40 per cent of the global economy is already in recession. Japan remains flat on its back. Don't count on Southeast Asia to buy much from the rest of the world. Germany and France, still suffering double-digit unemployment, are slowing down. The Brazilian economy is teetering. Just about the only people on the planet who are still buying like mad are American consumers, and they cannot keep it up much longer. They are going into debt. So where will the demand come from? Businesses will not invest if they have too much capacity. The only remaining purchaser—the buyer of last resort, as John Maynard Keynes demonstrated 60 years ago—is the government.

And yet, it is precisely now that public budgets are being slashed all over the world. The price of admission to join Europe's euro has been to get deficits down to under 3 per cent of national product. The International Monetary Fund is de-

manding budget austerity as the price every Third World nation must pay for obtaining a loan.

We have become so accustomed to thinking of inflation as our biggest challenge that we have stopped thinking about the dangers of deflation. That's because most people alive today remember the double-digit inflation of the 1970s, but not the Great Depression of the 1930s. Large public deficits are presumed to be bad; public debt is presumed to be undesirable. Fiscal prudence (cutting deficits, balancing budgets, and, ultimately, saving surpluses) is presumed to be the best means of assuring prosperity, under all circumstances.

Lord Keynes isn't with us any more. But if he looked at today's global economy and heard Bill Clinton's latest proposal, he might be stirring in his grave. Robert B Reich, the former US labor secretary, is university professor of social and economic policy at Brandeis University.

## Notice to TSB Trustcard Customers

TSB is changing its interest rates for TSB Trustcard customers. With effect from 1st February 1999 the interest rates on TSB Trustcard are as follows:

Balance Outstanding	MONTHLY RATE	APR (PURCHASES)	APR (CASH)
£1-£1,499	1.67%	21.9%	23.8%
£1,500-£2,999	1.63%	21.4%	23.2%
£3,000 and over	1.38%	17.8%	19.6%

\*This rate remains unchanged

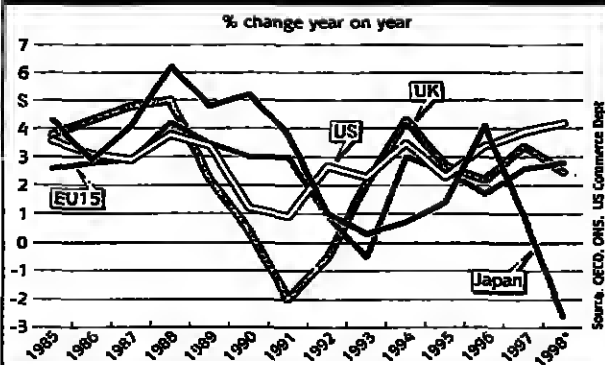
The Balance Transfer rates have remained unchanged.

Amount Transferred	1.09%	13.8%	15.6%
£250-£1,499			
£1,500 and over	0.94%	11.8%	13.5%

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## WORLD OUTPUT GROWTH



LARRY SUMMERS  
US Deputy Treasury Secretary

*"I believe the momentum of expansion in the United States should continue, albeit with some ups and some downs. But the world economy cannot fly for very long on one engine"*



## Notice to existing Barclays mortgage customers

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# Don't be too terrified by the R-word

ONE OF the best indicators of an approaching recession is simply the number of times the word is used in the newspapers. The R-word count has shot up since last summer, foreshadowing official figures showing that growth slowed almost to a standstill in the final three months of last year.

Yet there is no better indicator of an overheating economy than "help wanted" signs in shop windows. In effect, employers are so desperate for staff that they are pleading with any passing stranger to come in and take a job. The south-east of England and a handful of

## UNITED KINGDOM STILL STEADY IN CHOPPY SEAS

other hotspots are still in this happy state.

This simultaneous boom and bust is mirrored in other ways. Manufacturing industry is laying off workers and cutting output; the computer industry has had to double salaries to fill some posts. Exporters have been hit by the double whammy of the strong pound and the col-

lapse of some overseas markets in the wake of financial crisis. But businesses selling to the domestic market are quietly satisfied with business.

Some retailers face such stiff competition that they can only shift their stock by slashing prices, whereas services such as restaurants, hairdressers and insurers have been raising their charges. And that bellwether of consumer confidence, the housing market, veers between price increases of 25 per cent a year in chi-chi parts of London and falling prices in depressed northern towns.

There is no doubt at all that

the British economy has slowed sharply. Successive interest rate increases by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee between May 1997 and June last year nipped in the bud an out-and-out boom.

The process should have started earlier, but was delayed by the election campaign - it would take a brave or foolhardy Chancellor to put up mortgage costs at that stage of the political cycle. Critics argue that, having started late, the interest rate rises then went on too long. The eight men and one woman on the Bank's monetary committee are out of touch with

the real economy, according to industry and unions alike in the manufacturing sector.

When Eddie George, the Governor, learnt that the Bank was to get the power to set interest rates, the prospect of demonstrations by union members in Threadneedle Street was probably the last thing on his mind. Yet he can argue that even if interest rates are not quite at the right level, they are pretty close. The peak rate of 7.5 per cent in June was less than half as high as last time around, and the level has fallen sharply since then. Weighing up this performance by his formal inflation

target, it looks pretty impressive so far. The underlying measure has been at 2.5 per cent, the target, or close to it for more than six months.

Most people care more about what happens to growth and employment prospects than to inflation, of course, no matter how often Gordon Brown spells out his message that low stable inflation is what will deliver jobs and growth. Yet on this front, so far, interest rates and the government's budget policy compare well with the past. If the six-month period from October to March is as bad as the downturn gets, it will scarcely deserve to be

called a recession. The Chancellor's hands-off approach to tax and spending policy has attracted criticism from those who think he should have used his Budgets to boost growth. But even though the Treasury's last forecast will prove to be somewhat over-optimistic, Mr Brown remains resolutely upbeat about prospects for the economy this year.

As far as macroeconomic policies go, it is fair to say that, at a minimum, the UK has suffered from much bigger mistakes in the past. Of course, this does not mean that we are safe from recession after all. Things will be beyond the control of Gordon

Brown and Eddie George, from a slump in Brazil to a Wall Street crash, could have knock-on effects that would plunge the UK economy into a far more serious downturn.

And if global waters do prove to be too turbulent, the Government might prove to have made the biggest mistake of all in not joining the euro from the start. If it is a small craft tossed on waves between supertankers, it will not help that plucky HMS Britain is being steered better than ever before.

DIANE COYLE  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

## Unsettled forecast in barometer of Britain

BRIGHT FLOWERS in plastic huckles lined the entrance to Cannongate Shopping Centre in Worcester and Alan Prince, a florist, was busy with secateurs and sheets of paper.

There were roses for an elegant, silver-haired woman, spray carnations for another shopping with her friend and a mixed bunch for a third woman complaining about the drizzle. Business was steady on Saturday afternoon. "It's strange, but we don't actually do badly in a recession. In fact we can do quite well," said Mr Prince, 34, the owner of seven florists throughout the West Midlands.

"Because people don't have a lot of money and can't afford a big present they spend a few pounds on a bunch of flowers and find that gets the same results as spending £40 on a bottle of perfume. But there is no doubt that there is a bad vibe

at the moment. Maybe it's people just talking things up but there is real concern about what's around the corner."

Mr Prince was not the only trader in Worcester with concerns about what may be around the corner. At an ethnic clothes store in the Hop Market, Deborah McCormick shook her head as she tidied pairs of baggy cotton trousers. "People just seem to be hanging on to their money at the moment. You just have to look around. I went into Woolworths yesterday and the place was empty," she said.

Such testimony may be anecdotal, but the men and women with the calculators, flow charts and long-term financial forecasts would do well to take note. For many years, Worcester has had the reputation as the economic barometer of Britain. One of the reasons for this city's status is its position at the



Traders in Worcester's shopping centre are subdued. 'People seem to be hanging on to their money,' said one

John Lawrence

hub of a number of transport networks, something taken advantage of by big companies such as catalogue giant Kay and Co, which base their distribution networks there. "If people are not buying as much then Worcester gets the knock-on ef-

fect," said Andrew Martin, editor of the Worcester Evening News. "It means that Worcester itself can be doing well but if the rest of the country is finding it tight, the city can be affected."

A recent survey of the city

and county economy, commissioned by the county's chamber of commerce, found that although Worcester was performing at an average rate for Britain now, its prospects for the next 10 years were not so bright. More investment, a bet-

ter mix of businesses and a solution to the city's traffic snarl-ups were needed.

"Worcester is a very dynamic city. I don't see a recession but I do see some difficult times," said Alan Curless, the chamber's chief executive. "For

the past two years we have seen optimism drop."

Back in the damp High Street, David Johnson was trying to tempt shoppers with helium balloons. He didn't seem to be rushed off his feet. "Yeah, it's steady I suppose. Not great,

but then again it is the month after Christmas."

Perhaps the subdued demand was nothing more than that. But perhaps not.

ANDREW BUNCOMBE  
WORCESTER

GORDON BROWN  
Chancellor of the  
Exchequer



'Economic progress in 1999 and 2000 depends on us learning the right and not the wrong lessons from Asia, Russia and Brazil. There should be no retreat from global markets. There should be no retreat into protectionism'

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# Euro launch keeps optimists smiling

ANNE-MARIE PICARD pointed out of the window towards a building site and a crane. "I love cranes. Not long ago, you would never see a crane in Valenciennes. Now you see them everywhere. People don't build unless they believe in the future."

Ms Picard, 49, runs a small factory making rubber and plastic seals and joints for industry. It is the kind of business that is ultra-sensitive to recession. If the economy is weak, her customers in France, Belgium and Luxembourg hang on to their worn joints and seals until the last possible moment. Then they ring her in a panic when their machinery breaks down.

"Now, everything is calm and orderly. Business is pretty good [11 per cent up in two years]. Just before Christmas, it was quiet and I thought, ah, here comes the slowdown. Then, in the last few days the phones have been humming."

In another part of the same industrial estate - Valenciennes Zone Industrielle Numero Deux, beside the Paris-to-Brussels autoroute - Eric Cateau, 42, has a warehouse full of severed legs, fangs, green hair, Indian costumes, fire-works, false breasts and rubber bottoms. He and his brother have a thriving wholesale business selling accessories for festivals, marriages and parties.

Business is booming, he says, partly because shops are already stocking for the anti-

## EUROPE ONE FRENCH TOWN'S STORY

ipated mass frolicking at the end of the year. But that is not the only reason.

"Since January, and the coming of the euro, we've had more inquiries from other European countries than I've ever had before. I'm in conversation with competitors in Italy, Luxembourg and Belgium about how we can work together to take advantage of having a single currency by placing larger, joint orders abroad. Until now, 3 per cent of my business has been outside France. I hope to expand that to 30 or 35 per cent in the next few years."

Valenciennes, east of Lille, is as good a place as any other to test the economic temperature of euroland, as the chill of recession shivers around the globe. The town, built on coal and steel, was devastated by the rust-belt slump of the Seventies and Eighties. It still has unemployment of just under 20 per cent, among the worst in euroland. But Valenciennes has been fighting back strongly.

Thirteen months ago, the town won a big new Toyota factory (2,000 jobs), which Britain had hoped to take. Led by one of the most enterprising chambers of commerce in France, Valenciennes had scoured the world for new business to re-



The French, in the heart of euroland, have benefited from low inflation and interest rates, but growth is slowing

place the old staples (coal has gone altogether, steel just survives). The town is becoming a hub for the motor industry and hi-tech, service and trucking industries. This "new" Valenciennes is deeply embedded in a European economy and, to some extent, a world economy.

Can the European recovery survive while the rest of the world is slowing down? Is the coming of the euro just the boost that the European economy needed? Or an

irrelevance? Or even a trap? The strong recovery in continental Europe, led by France and then Germany in the past 18 to 24 months, has been based mostly on a boom in consumer spending and domestic investment. Inflation in France and Germany has virtually ceased to exist; interest rates are at record lows right across the euro zone. Industrial investment in Germany leapt by 8.6 per cent last year, less in France.

And yet, and yet... In another part of Zone Industrielle 2, Bertrand Gillard, head of the Nord Fret transport company, is less optimistic about the future. "Last year was a fantastic year for us. Fantastic," he said. "But just before Christmas, I did a tour of my customers, mostly manufacturing companies, and they all gave me the same message. Prospects are not as good this year because the recession in Asia and Russia is beginning

to be felt by companies here." Can the euro help to blunt the effects of the Asian recession? "I can sum up the impact of the euro so far in one word," Mr Gillard said. "Nothing."

In the longer run, he believes that the euro will be a huge advantage. How could it be otherwise for a French freight company, 20 miles from Belgium and three hours' drive from four other EU countries? "But you will not feel the real effects until 2002," he said. "Until

then, most people are adopting the wisdom of the ostrich. We have hundreds of customers and of those just one has asked us to invoice in euros."

The mood in Valenciennes matches that in France, Germany and euroland as a whole: some, such as Mr Gillard, are cautious-to-gloomy; others - the majority - are confident that recession can be kept at bay and that the phantom euro is already helping.

"We have had no falling off in approaches from all over the world," said Jacques Lesnes, director-general of the town's chamber of commerce and industry. "One of our missions has just returned from looking for possible new investments from Latin America and, despite the problems in Brazil, they say the level of interest is as high as ever." The combination of the launch of the euro and the problems elsewhere could bring new capital into euroland, he believes.

The latest figures suggest that the continental EU economy is holding out - but only just. Germany had its highest level of growth last year - 2.8 per cent - since its reunification. But the rate of growth fell away sharply in the last quarter and is expected to slow to about 1 per cent this year. Unemployment is only just beginning to creep down.

Private estimates of French growth - 3 per cent in 1998, the highest for nine years - have been revised downwards this

## Deflation can be good for you

DEFINITION is defined as a persistent decline in the prices of goods and services in the economy, usually measured by the consumer price index or the GDP deflator. It must, by definition, be a phenomenon that applies to the entire economy.

Most people think of deflation as malign, since it raises memories of the slump of the 1930s. Yet some periods of deflation have been benign, coinciding with booming output and declining unemployment. How do we know which is which? Essentially, benign deflation occurs when aggregate demand declines, so prices are reduced in a climate of declining sales. Benign deflation occurs when productivity and supply increase, so that firms can reduce their prices while profitably expanding sales.

We are not seeing deflation at the moment, but we are close to it. OECD price inflation, as measured by GDP deflators, has dropped to 1 per cent, and it is declining. If deflation is beckoning, will it be benign or malign? There are symptoms of both. In Japan, the Far East and Latin America the dominant force is malign; prices are falling in slump-like conditions. In the US there is evidence that productivity growth has improved.

In the early stages of the world economic upswing, from 1991-1996, it was possible to argue that benign forces were in the ascendant. Price inflation was falling while output growth was rising. Since 1997, however, this pattern has reversed. There is now no doubt that a collapse in global demand is dragging down prices and output. Can this threat of malign deflation be stopped?

It depends on assuming an enlightened role for public policy in the 1970s Milton Friedman attained notoriety by pointing out that inflation is "always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon". In principle, the same applies to deflation. Although prices are not determined simply by the behaviour of any single measure of the money supply, Friedman was proved right in the greater truth that the overall monetary framework determines the price level, while long-run output is determined by the forces of supply.

Thus deflation can usually be prevented by an appropriate expansion in monetary or fiscal policy. The fact that governments and central banks around



GAVYN DAVIES

'Will this deflation be malign or benign? There are symptoms of both'

the world have allowed malign forces to gather momentum in the past two years represents powerful prima facie evidence that policy has been too tight.

Where should macro-demand policy be eased? Where the threat of excess capacity is most extreme. There is not much doubt about what this implies. The US economy is working 2 per cent of GDP above its normal capacity. Meanwhile, excess capacity in Japan remains at a remarkable 5 per cent of GDP while in continental Europe it stands at a wasteful 1.5 per cent. It is time for Japan and Europe to stop freeloading on the strength of the US economy.

In Japan there is little prospect of this happening. The scope for fiscal easing is rapidly being circumscribed by the explosion in the budget deficit, which now exceeds 10 per cent of GDP. Furthermore, the central bank has, amazingly, allowed monetary conditions to tighten markedly in recent months.

By a process of elimination, that leaves continental Europe, where inflation is sinking below 1 per cent and unemployment stands at 11 per cent. Fiscal policy is planned to tighten by 0.5 per cent of GDP this year. Yet it is shocking that, with Asia and Latin America mired in deep recession, the otherwise healthy European economy should be choosing to run a large trade surplus, thus subtracting economic activity from the rest of the world.

Since 1990, the EMU countries have piled up a cumulative trade surplus of \$320 billion (£200bn), while the US has amassed a cumulative trade deficit of \$1,370bn. The US should be telling Europe in no uncertain terms that the EMU bloc must ease demand policy aggressively, and soon, to alleviate the risk of global deflation.

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# The next domino ready to topple?

## CHINA PROSPERITY LOOKS FRAGILE

WANDER THROUGH many parts of China and what do you see? Shiny new buildings. But look closely - they are often empty or unfinished. You will also spot smartly dressed people with mobile phones. But they walk along streets lined with newly unemployed state workers and jobless farmers desperately hawking goods or their labour.

Factories churn out goods, but stockpiles are growing because exports have fallen recently and domestic demand is at its weakest this decade. It is a worrying picture. Eighteen months into the Asian financial crisis, could China be the next economic domino to topple?

The country recorded a healthy 7.8 per cent increase in gross domestic product for 1998, so what is the problem?

Some figures seem too good to be true. Even the central government has admitted that raw statistics can be inflated by local Communist Party cadres fearful of missing targets. Analysts point to what seem to be inconsistencies: if growth is so strong, how come electricity consumption rose by only 2 per cent and rail freight was flat.

In the West, much of the concern about China surrounds the likelihood of devaluation. No one inside China expects the yuan to be devalued, but that is scant comfort, given the awesome problems of an insolvent state banking sector, unemployment at levels which officials admit threaten social stability, a state sector in which at least half the enterprises lose money and institutionalised corruption that undermines policies for tackling these challenges.

Even the Finance Minister, Xiang Buaicheng, has said there is "no room for optimism" on the economy. Crackdowns have been launched on smuggling, tax evasion, counterfeit goods, corruption and illicit foreign borrowing.

Against this background, in January it was revealed that the debts of the failed state-owned Guangdong International Trust and Investment Corporation (GITIC) were far higher than previously thought, with assets

of \$2.58bn (£1.56bn) against debts of \$4.35bn (£2.64bn). As the biggest bankruptcy since the Communists took power in 1949, the GITIC case is a turning point. It is one of 240 investment corporations used by state bodies to raise foreign capital in the early 1990s when China enjoyed breakneck growth. Foreign bankers were persuaded by

party officials that they were in effect lending to the state. In the case of GITIC, where the ultimate borrower was a big provincial government, foreign lenders felt secure. But money was being diverted into investment scams, property schemes and the overheated stock market. A fair chunk also disappeared into suitcases taken overseas as the

newly rich built nest-eggs abroad. From Peking's point of view, the investment corporations are merely the tip of the debt iceberg. The rogue lending and squandering of state money was mirrored throughout the state banking system.

For the time being, China is trapped by conflicting demands. To sort out the banking sector

it must deal with debt-ridden state enterprises, but to sort those out it will have to throw millions more out of work, risking growing unrest. Fear of unemployment has prompted everyone to save more and spend less, exactly the reverse of what the government wants.

Peking's answer is to spend, spend, spend. Investment by

state enterprises jumped 23 per cent last year, with much of the money coming from state banks. Maintaining public confidence is one reason Peking will try to hold the yuan stable. Strict controls are now in place to limit the movement of foreign exchange.

China has watched the collapse of neighbouring Asian economies and learnt some

swift lessons. The odds are that the government will negotiate a path through the hazards ahead, but the going will be perilous. In the 50th anniversary of the Communist revolution, the leadership in Peking is taking nothing for granted.

TERESA POOLE  
PEKING



A porcelain plant in Zhejiang province, eastern China, faces an uncertain future. Fear of unemployment is making people save more and spend less. Alain le Garsmeur

# The spectre of Weimar hovers, but no Hitler - yet

## RUSSIA A TRAIN OFF THE RAILS

ANYONE LOOKING for proof of Russia's economic disaster need only telephone its official statistics department. Ask how many squillions of roubles are now owed to the country's workers, and how many mouths these unfortunate people have waited for their money.

You might think that as this information is of unarguable public interest, particularly to Russia's army of international creditors and to its even larger army of miserably poor, it would be freely available. Wrong.

So dire is today's crisis, the state's fact-gatherer, Goskomstat, charges the equivalent of £5 from members of the public who want the latest news about how much their government has - without so much as asking - borrowed from them. As this is a week's income for the

40 million Russians below the official poverty line, few of them can now afford to find out.

In fact, the wage arrears bill stands at more than 77 billion roubles (£2.1bn) - although not all is owed by the federal government. Of this, £470m is owed to teachers, of whom tens of thousands went on strike last week because they, too, had not been paid. Two officials were taken hostage to publicise their misery. But Russia is used to the sight of its own suffering; the media paid scant attention.

The bubble burst last August, but trouble had been brewing for months. A key

source of hard currency - the sale of oil and gas - had dropped sharply amid a fall in world prices. Tax collection was, as usual, inadequate. With a widening hole in its budget - and the clamour of unpaid miners, doctors, pensioners and many others ringing in its ears - the government relied increasingly on short-term borrowing, selling T-bills often to undercapitalised and criminally controlled banks. Asian lenders helped to drive interest rates through the roof, locking the government into a mad cyclical scramble to raise money at increasing cost just to stay abreast of maturing short-term debt.

In the end, the train came off the rails. A £14bn IMF rescue package failed to inspire investor faith. Moscow defaulted

on foreign and domestic debts, and abandoned its battle to defend the currency. The rouble dropped in value by 75 per cent.

Scattered signs of recovery, brandished by the more optimistic Western economists in 1998, vanished at once. Foreign investors fled and tens of thousands of young Russians - the beginnings of an urban middle-class - found themselves out of work as the economy sank back into refrigeration. Russia's annual per capita income - 4 per cent of the United States - is expected to drop this year to £750 and perhaps lower. Economic output of this vast former superpower is forecast this year to be well short of that of Belgium.

The causes of this disaster are rooted in both the chaotic aftermath of the break-up of the Soviet Union and the Commu-

nist empire itself. Chief among them was the failure of Russia's privatisation programme. Industries that should generate wealth were too often sold for a pittance in rigged auctions to cliques of Soviet-era managers intent on excluding outsiders at any cost, and thereby choking investment and growth.

The West sought with evangelical fervour to impose an economic creed on a society where decades of Soviet management - with its bartering, bogus production figures, institutionalised corruption and centralised government - had created an environment lacking the basic requisites of a market economy. Without the right tools - such as access to long-term cheap credit, functioning laws and real competition - there was never much hope of kick-

starting the engine of reform.

So what next? The IMF, which has already lent £12bn to Moscow, is trying to decide whether to hand over more. Russia faces another possible default on a slice of its £94bn external debt; it has already said it can only pay \$5bn of the £11bn (including £2.5bn to the IMF itself) that is due this year.

The IMF wants promises of good behaviour before signing another cheque, and no rouble printing presses. The Russians seem to be gambling on the fact that the fund will cave in, partly because its Western shareholders fear isolating a volatile nuclear power and partly because another Russian default would further damage the IMF's credibility. Russia hopes the low rouble will boost exports and revive moribund domestic

production. Whether it can contain the worst of its Soviet reflexes is unclear, but the signs are not hopeful.

One such came last week when a senior minister, Vadim Gustov, floundered against the need to close any coal mines - the centrepiece of a World Bank-funded plan to restructure the hugely subsidised and outdated mining industry.

No one knows what the social and political consequences of further economic decline will be. The more despairing onlookers summon up the spectre of the Weimar Republic. They comfort themselves in the knowledge that there is no Russian Adolf Hitler on the horizon. So far.

PHIL REEVES  
MOSCOW

## EDDIE GEORGE



'We can, I believe, still avert a general international financial upheaval. But we are bound to see a pronounced slowdown of world economic activity'

# Tell the global financial architects to pay more attention to the poor

AFTER A string of financial upheavals in world markets, the main industrial countries have initiated a debate over a new "architecture" for the world economic system.

There is, we sense, something seriously wrong with a world economy that has produced deep financial crises in a growing number of countries, and resulted in chronic economic stagnation or decline in others. Unfortunately the architectural designs proposed by the rich countries are inadequate to the challenges facing the world community.

We had better start with a clear idea of the global home in which the human family is living. There are about six billion of us, so that we may imagine six family members. On the top floor lives one person in a luxury penthouse, representing the billion or so in high-income countries. This lucky soul enjoys an average annual income of about \$25,000 and a life expectancy of 76 years.

The upper tier owns virtually all of the world's corporate wealth. The developed countries are home to approximately 99.4 per cent of the total market value of the 500 largest listed companies in the world.

of humanity are extremely poor and virtually without financial capital.

The upper tier of this lower group constitutes the so-called emerging markets. These are the economies with the wealth, social organisation and geographic conditions that make it possible to attract capital from international private investors. There are two family members, two billion people, living in this "exalted" state among the poor.

Some countries in this group, such as Korea, have had great success in raising living standards, while others have faced difficulties for decades, punctuated by short periods of growth. Many of these countries, including Korea, Mexico, Brazil, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, have suffered deep financial crises.

In a nutshell, these "lucky" middle-income developing countries were credit-worthy enough to attract large amounts of international capital, but had enough structural problems to be vulnerable to a financial panic. In one such country after another, foreign investors abruptly withdrew funds they had invested. The abrupt withdrawal destroyed the banking sectors to which they had been lending, and caused the economies to suffer short-term declines in income.

These crisis countries are, none the less, among the lucky developing countries. They were successful enough to attract private foreign invest-



JEFFREY  
SACHS  
The debt of the poorest should be cancelled and the IMF sent home

ment, even if the investment proved volatile and destructive. Half of humanity, three of our six family members, live huddled in the basement of the human home, too economically unstable to attract foreign investment, and therefore too poor even to experience an emerging-market crisis. The average income of these three billion people is perhaps \$1,000 a year in purchasing power. Not only are they bereft of financial assets, but life expectancy is 10 to 20 years less than in the penthouse, and they are vulnerable to diseases almost unknown in the top floors.

Our financial architects have devoted a considerable amount of time to thinking about the penthouse, and the emerging-market level just below, and almost no time to thinking about the half of the

family living in impoverishment in the basement. The current system works fine for the penthouse. As for the emerging markets, the lessons of recent years are clear, although the confusion that reigns has prevented a consensus on needed measures. Every one of the major crises in recent years - Brazil (1998), Indonesia (1997), Korea (1997), Mexico (1994), Russia (1998), Thailand (1997) - went through similar phases.

Each of the countries that succumbed to crisis started with a national currency pegged to the dollar. Each attracted large capital inflows, including short-term loans from international banks. In each country, the currency became overvalued, leading investors to withdraw their money in anticipation of a devaluation.

Each country defended the currency until it had depleted its foreign exchange reserves. And in each, this was followed by a panic by foreign investors, in which the remaining short-term debts were abruptly recalled. The International Monetary Fund then stepped in with a "rescue plan", but failed to stop the panic, and the downturn proceeded with ferocity.

There are three lessons for the economic architect. First, emerging market currencies should be allowed to float, since countries with pegged currencies too often run out of foreign reserves. Second, these countries should abstain from taking short-term loans from

international banks. Short-term inflows easily become short-term outflows. And third, these countries should not turn to the IMF for help. The IMF advice itself has often added to the economic destruction.

Our house will remain on shaky foundations unless the architect pays vastly more attention to the impoverished souls in the basement. Many of the three billion of the world's poorest live in countries whose governments have long since gone bankrupt under the weight of past credits from foreign governments, banks, and agencies such as the World Bank and the IMF. These countries have become desperate wards of the IMF.

There are two fundamental needs for these desperately vulnerable souls. First, their debts should be cancelled outright, and the IMF sent home. Second, these countries need help in mobilising the world's science and technology to address their unsolved problems.

Let us tell our architects to redouble their efforts to build a home with enough room in the upper floors for all of the human family.

The writer is Gale L. Stone, professor of International Trade at Harvard University, and director of the Harvard Institute for International Development. He is an economic adviser to governments in Latin America, Europe, Africa, the former Soviet Union and Asia.

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# Samba effect follows tequila tumble

AFTER MEXICO'S financial crisis, the money men spoke of "the tequila effect". After Russia's meltdown, the fear was of "the vodka effect." Now, with Brazil in financial turmoil, the analysts are warning of a "samba effect".

And, they say, the fall-out from a Brazilian financial collapse could make the Mexican, Russian or Asian crises seem small beer.

Why? Because Brazil is the locomotive that drives all Latin America economies, a still largely untapped market of 350 million souls. When Brazil's economy sneezes, Latin America catches a cold. When Latin America catches a cold, the US reaches for the medicine cabinet. And when the US feels sick, well...

Brazil's leaders continue to insist that they have not reached the crisis point of Russia last year; that their currency, the real, will survive its nosedive and that they have no intention of defaulting on the country's massive debt.

Publicly, international financial officials back that view.

## LATIN AMERICA MELTDOWN THAT MATTERS

That's their job. Privately, the financial world is getting jittery.

The real fell below the psychological two-to-a-dollar barrier on Friday, down 10 per cent on the day. That made it 45 per cent less valuable than it was under three weeks ago.

Interest rates of 37 per cent were failing to keep reals in the country while making it proportionately more expensive for the country to pay back its crippling debt.

It sounded like Russia revisited as the D-word, for default, returned to everyone's lips.

But why does a Brazilian meltdown worry the financial world more than what happened in Russia? In many ways, the Russian crisis received front-page headlines because of fixed Cold War-based ideas, the fact that it is a major military power with nuclear weapons. In

reality, although it had shifted towards capitalism, its economy was hardly crucial to the world capitalist system. Brazil may still be considered Third World because of its dire poverty but it is now the world's eighth largest economy. US financial exposure in Brazil is higher than it is in all of Asia.

Brazil is also by far the largest economy south of the Rio Grande and is interlinked with the rest of Latin America, which buys one-fifth of all US exports.

On the frontline of any Brazilian collapse is neighbouring Argentina. Reflecting the latter's nerves over the fall of the real, the Argentine President, Carlos Menem, broke a taboo last week by criticising his Brazilian counterpart's handling of the financial crisis.

Brazil is already in recession. If it gets worse, Argentina loses its main export market. US corporations, from Coca-Cola to Ford, would also suffer heavily, forcing job losses at American plants. Florida businesses are already complaining about losses because wealthy or

middle-class Brazilians who frequent the Sunshine State now find they have effectively to pay 45 per cent more.

When Brazil surprisingly devalued its currency last month, the Dow Jones average plummeted 3 per cent in half an hour.

After Brazil tamed four-digit inflation in the early 1990s, it became the darling of daring investors, the most attractive of the emerging markets. Direct foreign investment soared from \$2bn to \$36bn.

But its high interest rates also attracted speculative money, much of which has poured out in the current crisis.

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation arrived in Brazil at the weekend to help sort out its problems. But many Brazilians feel the focus on exchange and interest rates is failing to get to the heart of the matter. That, they say, is the fact that the rich-poor divide is widening and that reliance on international bail-outs is ignoring or aggravating the problem.

PHIL DAVISON  
LATIN AMERICA  
CORRESPONDENT



Selling old Brazilian currency: the value of the real fell 10 per cent on Friday

John Maier/Still Pictures

# Lord of the rings.

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## This terrible agenda of inequalities

REPRESENTATIVES OF the rich world have travelled to one of Europe's most expensive ski resorts to discuss a global economy in crisis. The irony would not be lost on the fifth of the world's population that goes to bed hungry every night.

Not that most of them will have heard about the 29th Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos. And not that there is anything on the agenda speaking much to their interests.

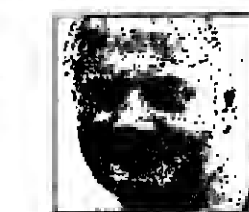
True, many of the world's poorest live in regions hit by the global capital crisis - South-east Asia and Latin America. But the response to the past 18 months of economic turmoil has been designed to make things worse, rather than better, for the poor and destitute.

The implosion of a Third World economy takes a disproportionately high toll on its poorest people. The devaluations that follow - sometimes as much as 60 or 70 per cent in a short period - have a swift impact on food production in countries where all agricultural inputs, such as fertiliser, are imported. In Indonesia, the number in dire poverty has doubled over the past year. Starvation is rising.

The debate at Davos is between those who say that globalisation is just a bigger market, which cannot be bucked, and those who want to put a brake on the huge amounts of money sloshing around on a scale that is knocking out one national economy after another: Thailand, Indonesia, Brazil, who next?

Advocates of control distinguish between speculation and genuine investment. They insist that the world must build sea-walls against the monetary tidal waves produced by increasingly crazed movements of speculative capital. The alternative is the kind of protectionism Malaysia has introduced.

But even talk of control comes within a bigger agenda, which is to increase corporate power. The poor world needs a lot more. It needs more than a Tobin Tax (a small levy on all currency transactions, to discourage speculation at the margins). It needs the abil-



PAUL VALLELY

*'The poor world tried to copy the Asian tigers. Look what happened'*

ity to discriminate in favour of those who want to invest for the long term rather than the short term.

This runs counter to the West's liberalisation agenda. It requires the kind of measures that the IMF made poor nations dismantle. Chile had a hefty tax on money invested in the country for less than 12 months. It was told to scrap it.

The truth is that the model Davos had for Third World development has failed. Copy the Asian tiger economies, they advised. Much of the poor world tried: look what happened.

So deregulation is not the only area where the poor need a change in policy. The IMF must modify the economic "structural adjustment packages" it imposes, which axe public spending and whack up interest rates with the intention of creating stability but which in fact provoke recession. It is like trying to cure an illness by provoking a coma.

Instead of encouraging every developing country to grow more agricultural products - which has just increased supply, and caused prices to fall - they need help to diversify their economies.

They need anti-monopoly measures to regulate the handful of companies that dominate world agriculture. They need fairer treatment in the forthcoming World Trade Organisation negotiations on agricultural trade. They need a more sensible attitude to the mountain of Third World debt. But they will get none of this. Davos will only concern itself with what is, in effect, the domestic agenda of the rich.

## MICHEL CAMDESSUS IMF Chief

*"Was it much ado about nothing? The symptoms have abated and the underlying malaise is now better understood - and recognised for its severity - but the treatment is only just beginning"*









# Lewinsky makes everyone nervous

THE CRUSH of reporters and cameras that constitute Monica Lewinsky's return to Washington was back in the Mayflower hotel yesterday to track the return to Washington of the capital's most wanted witness, the former girlfriend of the President.

Monica Lewinsky faces up to eight hours of further questioning about the relationship today, as the Senate impeachment trial goes on hold. Senators impatiently await the transcripts and possible tapes of the interview.

For the White House, Ms Lewinsky's summons to testify is second only to a "live" appearance by her in the Senate in terms of the dread it arouses. Uncertainty about what she might say, where her loyalties now lie, and whether she could be trapped into incriminating the President lie behind what has seemed at times a rabid opposition to her testifying.

As a postscript to her grand jury evidence last year she offered the unsolicited statement that "nobody asked me to lie and no one offered me a job for my silence" - a statement seized on by White House lawyers, and quoted by them to absolve Mr Clinton of the charge that he obstructed justice. The fear is that, with what prosecutors describe as her "almost total recall" of her conversations with Mr Clinton, she could give evi-

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

dence that would negate that.

There has been little indication, however, that she will behave like "a woman scorned", and give Mr Clinton's detractors what they want. Her public demeanour throughout has been understated and cool. Unofficial reports - the only ones available - suggest she has no desire to avenge herself by driving the President from office and that she is still fond of him. Advance word about the book she has helped Andrew Morton to write suggests she may not even have abandoned hope of becoming the second Mrs Clinton.

A greater fear in the White House may be Ms Lewinsky's maturity and credibility as a witness. After their preliminary meeting with her a week ago, the prosecutors from the House of Representatives disagreed with her lawyers about whether she had any new information to offer, but their assessment of her as "personable and impressive" chimed with other accounts. In other words, Ms Lewinsky is not an "airhead" who can be swatted away.

Ms Lewinsky's impending testimony was not the only development for the President over the weekend. According to *The New York Times*, the independent prosecutor, Kenneth Starr, whose investigation of

the Lewinsky affair led to the current drama in the Senate, has concluded that he does have the authority to seek an indictment of Mr Clinton.

While Mr Starr has reportedly not decided whether to bring charges soon, or at all, leaked speculation about the possibility might encourage the President to bargain a confession of wrongdoing against immunity from prosecution.

One main point of contention is whether the videotapes of the witnesses' testimony will become public, perhaps by being shown in an open session of the Senate. Republicans say "probably"; Democrats say "no". A vote may be taken on Thursday, once all the witnesses have been interviewed.

Ms Lewinsky will be the first of three witnesses to be questioned by the prosecutors, who are arguing the case for convicting Mr Clinton. Vernon Jordan, who was instrumental in finding her a job in New York, will be questioned tomorrow; and on Wednesday, Sidney Blumenthal, a White House aide who is accused of disseminating negative information about Ms Lewinsky after news of the affair broke.

In an effort to minimise the attendant theatre, Ms Lewinsky will be questioned in her hotel. The other two witnesses will be questioned in a Senate committee room.



Monica Lewinsky, who is due to give a videotaped deposition today, being escorted into the Mayflower Hotel, Washington

AFP

## NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

With effect from 1 February 1999 the following interest rates will apply on the accounts listed below.

60 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£50,000	6.25%	6.25%	6.00%	6.00%	4.80%
£25,000	6.00%	6.00%	5.75%	5.75%	4.60%
£10,000	5.65%	5.65%	5.40%	5.40%	4.32%
£5,000	5.20%	5.20%	4.95%	4.95%	3.96%
£500	4.65%	4.65%	4.40%	4.40%	3.52%
£1	4.45%	4.45%	4.20%	4.20%	3.36%

50 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£50,000	5.30%	5.30%	4.70%	4.70%	3.76%
£25,000	5.05%	5.05%	4.45%	4.45%	3.56%
£10,000	4.65%	4.65%	4.05%	4.05%	3.24%
£5,000	4.35%	4.35%	3.75%	3.75%	3.00%
£500	3.90%	3.90%	3.30%	3.30%	2.64%

30 DAY SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid monthly)					
£50,000	5.10%	5.22%	4.50%	4.59%	3.60%
£25,000	4.85%	4.96%	4.25%	4.33%	3.40%
£10,000	4.45%	4.54%	3.85%	3.92%	3.08%
£5,000	4.15%	4.23%	3.55%	3.61%	2.84%
£500	3.70%	3.76%	3.10%	3.14%	2.48%

INSTANT ACCESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£50,000	4.30%	4.30%	3.80%	3.80%	3.04%
£25,000	3.80%	3.80%	3.30%	3.30%	2.64%
£10,000	3.55%	3.55%	3.05%	3.05%	2.44%
£5,000	3.30%	3.30%	2.80%	2.80%	2.24%
£2,000	2.95%	2.95%	2.45%	2.45%	1.96%
£500	2.85%	2.85%	2.35%	2.35%	1.88%
£1	1.50%	1.50%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%

TESSA 2	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
£6,601	6.85%	6.13% ++	6.60%	5.91% ++	
£1	6.60%		6.35%		

GOLD DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£50,000	2.45%	2.45%	2.10%	2.10%	1.68%
£25,000	2.30%	2.30%	1.95%	1.95%	1.56%
£10,000	2.05%	2.05%	1.70%	1.70%	1.36%
£5,000	1.65%	1.65%	1.30%	1.30%	1.04%
£2,000	1.40%	1.40%	1.05%	1.05%	0.84%
£500	1.20%	1.20%	0.85%	0.85%	0.68%
£1	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%

GOLD DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid quarterly)					
£50,000	2.40%	2.42%	2.05%	2.07%	1.64%
£25,000	2.25%	2.27%	1.90%	1.91%	1.52%
£10,000	2.00%	2.02%	1.65%	1.66%	1.32%
£5,000	1.60%	1.61%	1.25%	1.26%	1.00%
£2,000	1.35%	1.36%	1.00%	1.00%	0.80%
£500	1.15%	1.15%	0.80%	0.80%	0.64%
£1	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%	0.45%	0.36%

ROYALTY GOLD	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid monthly)					
£10,000+	3.50%	3.56%	3.25%	3.30%	2.60%
£5,000-£9,999	2.50%	2.53%	2.25%	2.27%	1.80%
£2,500-£4,999	1.50%	1.51%	1.25%	1.26%	1.00%
£1-£2,499	1.00%	1.00%	0.75%	0.75%	0.60%

ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW INVESTORS

TESSA	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
	5.10%	4.74% ++	4.85%	4.52% ++	

ROYAL REWARD	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid annually)					
£100,000	4.80% +	2.80%	4.55% +	2.55%	3.64% +
£50,000	4.70% +	2.70%	4.45% +	2.45%	3.56% +
£25,000	4.45% +	2.45%	4.20% +	2.20%	3.36% +
£10,000	4.00% +	2.00%	3.75% +	1.75%	3.00% +
£5,000	3.75% +	1.75%	3.50% +	1.50%	2.80% +
£1	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%

ROYAL REWARD	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid monthly)					
£100,000	4.65% +	2.68%	4.40% +	2.48%	3.52% +
£50,000	4.55% +	2.58%	4.30% +	2.32%	3.44% +
£25,000	4.30% +	2.32%	4.05% +	2.07%	3.24% +
£10,000	3.85% +	1.87%	3.60% +	1.61%	2.88% +
£5,000	3.60% +	1.61%	3.35% +	1.36%	2.68% +
£1	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.40%

GOLD CHEQUE	Previous Rate p.a.	Previous AER p.a.	New Gross Rate p.a.	New AER p.a.	New Net Rate p.a.
(Interest paid monthly)					
All balances	0.70%	0.70%	0.50%	0.40%	0.40%

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Interest rates and terms are correct at 1.02.99 and are variable. \*Gross rate is the rate paid without the deduction of income tax to non tax paying customers. \*\*Annual equivalent rate (AER) is a national rate which illustrates the gross interest rate (excluding any bonus interest payable) as if paid and compounded on an annual basis. + Rates include a 2.00% gross p.a. (1.60% net p.a.) anniversary bonus which will be paid if no withdrawals are made during the 12 month period other than on the anniversary date, and the balance does not fall below £5,000. ++ Interest is not compounded. The AER assumes that the maximum balance permitted by the Inland Revenue is deposited at the earliest opportunity (each year).

## Nato air strikes on Serbs could start in 48 hours

FIVE DAYS before the planned start of the Kosovo peace conference in France, the West is stepping up military and diplomatic pressure to force Serbs and Albanians to embrace the political settlement drawn up for them.

Kicking off what is bound to be a week of brinkmanship, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, went to the Balkans in person to deliver the leading powers' ultimatum for a deal by 20 February. At the same time, Nato authorised its Secretary-General, Javier Solana, to unleash military action if he judges it necessary.

This means air strikes by the hundreds of Nato planes in the

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

region could start with 48 hours' notice if President Slobodan Milosevic refuses to pull back his troops as he promised when agreeing last October's failed ceasefire. Alternatively, the alliance could move to close the supply lines of the insurgent ethnic Albanians if they spurn the summons to negotiate.

After meeting the Prime Minister in London on Saturday, the US Vice-President, Al Gore, warned that "the rest of the world is united in demanding that Milosevic comply". Washington is also edging towards committing ground troops to police a settlement, as Britain,

France and Germany have already done. Subject to congressional agreement, the Pentagon could contribute up to 5,000 of the total force of 30,000 men who might be required.

All that remains is for Serbs and Albanians themselves to attend the peace conference, to be chaired jointly by Mr Cook and the French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine. "I told Milosevic the Contact Group proposals (on Kosovo's autonomy) offered him a way out of a conflict he cannot win against the great bulk of the Kosovo population," Mr Cook said yesterday. "I also told the Kosovo Albanian leaders that the proposals would provide for a democratic self-

governing Kosovo free from fear and bloodshed."

The clearest-cut acceptance has come from Ibrahim Rugova, political leader of the Kosovo Albanians, but he is perhaps the least significant of the protagonists. The two who matter most, President Milosevic and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), are still considering their options.

Adem Demaci, a senior political representative of the KLA, told Mr Cook he needed time to consult commanders in the field - thus indirectly underlining the divisions between the Albanians' political and military leaders, which have hampered efforts to restart peace talks.

## IN BRIEF

### King Hussein to have transplant

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan is to have bone-marrow transplants today and tomorrow in an attempt to achieve remission of his cancer. The King returned to the United States for further treatment when he suffered a relapse after chemotherapy for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

### Troops keep peace at funeral

ABOUT 1,000 troops and police stood guard yesterday at the funeral of a South African warlord in the KwaZulu-Natal town of Richmond. The murder of Sifiso Nkabinde on 23 January had sparked fears of a return to the bloody political strife that has rocked KwaZulu-Natal in the past.

### Students in Kenya protest battle

KENYAN RIOT police fired tear-gas and used wooden clubs to beat back students protesting against housing construction in one of the country's few remaining indigenous forests at Karura. Environmentalists say Karura acts as "a lung" for Nairobi, a densely populated and congested city of more than 3 million.

### Fire warning to Saudi pilgrims

SAUDI ARABIA issued a new warning to Muslim pilgrims against using gas cylinders for cooking and heating at this year's haj (pilgrimage) to holy sites in the kingdom. The ban was first issued after a fire at a camp site in 1997 killed 343 people and destroyed more than 70,000 tents.

### Rats take shine off new airport

MORE THAN 3,000 rats have been caught at Malaysia's multi-billion dollar international airport since it opened in June. Kuala Lumpur airport has been plagued by the pests because it was built on old oil-palm plantations.

## Allied planes fire on Iraqi bases

AMERICAN WARPLANES enforcing the "no-fly" zones in southern and northern Iraq fired on Iraqi defence installations yesterday for the second successive day.

In southern Iraq, six US and two British planes fired on two military sites at Tallil and a radio relay facility at Al Amarah in response to what US officials called "Iraqi provocations". US officials said the sites were targeted because of their role in aircraft command and control.

In the north, a US Air Force F-16CJ Fighting Falcon fired at a radar system north of the city of Mosul, according to a statement from the US airbase at Incirlik in southern Turkey. The statement said the Iraqi radar system posed a threat to coalition forces patrolling the "no-fly" zone above the 36th parallel.

On Saturday, US fighters at-

BY MARCUS TANNER

tacked Iraqi defence sites in six confrontations around Mosul in the single largest number of attacks in one day since Iraq began to challenge the jets in the "no-fly" zone last month.

Baghdad yesterday rejected as "procrastination" the UN Security Council's decision to create study panels on Iraq's disarmament and humanitarian needs and the fate of missing Kuwaitis. Iraq, which wanted the Security Council to condemn the air raids, said the panels would take "several months" to complete their work "which means nothing but procrastination and maintaining the unjust blockade on Iraq".

The study panels were set up as a first step towards breaking the diplomatic logjam over continuing sanctions against Iraq.

## informative:

With effect from 1 February 1999 the following interest rates will apply:

Premier Cheque Account				
	Previous Rate	% EAR	% p.a.	% EAR
Overdraft Rate				
Agreed overdraft for				
Balance up to £10,000	8.25%	8.0%	8.00%	8.5%

With effect from 8 February 1999 the following interest rates will apply:

Mortgage		
	Previous Rate	New Rate
All loan amounts	7.25% p.a.	6.99% p.a.

Equity Release Loan		
	Previous Rate	New Rate
All loan amounts	7.25% p.a.	6.99% p.a.

If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:

If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:

All loan amounts 9.25% p.a. 8.99% p.a.

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# BUSINESS

## AXA's £3.5bn bid is accepted by GRE

THE insurance group Guardian Royal Exchange was poised to announce today that it has accepted a £3.5bn takeover bid from AXA, the French insurer, putting an end to a messy three-month auction for the group.

The board of GRE met last night to agree the details of the bid ahead of a formal Stock Exchange announcement today.

The deal is a triumph for AXA, which - as revealed in *The Independent* - sparked an auction for the group, the smallest British composite insurer, when

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

it approached GRE about a friendly deal last November. The offer submitted late on Friday consists of a cash and shares offer worth 390p a share. It is being launched through Sun Life and Provincial, the UK quoted group majority controlled by AXA.

As a result of the offer and depending on how many GRE shareholders accept the Sun Life paper, AXA's stake is expected to fall from above 70 per cent in Sun Life to around 60 per cent in the combined group. AXA has agreed to sell on GRE's American businesses to the US group Liberty Mutual, while AXA's German offshoot Colonia has agreed to buy Albingia GRE's German business. The combined sales are expected to raise £1.5bn of the £3.5bn cost of the takeover. The rest is expected to be financed by a convertible bond issue by AXA.

The deal is a blow to Eureka, the umbrella grouping of nine

European insurers which until AXA came back with its knock-out bid had been in the lead. This is the second time that Eureka has been the loser in an auction for a major insurance deal in a year. The group, which was advised by the American bank Chase Manhattan, narrowly lost out in the bidding for GAN, the French insurer, last year.

Eureka has offered a key role to GRE's chief executive in waiting Peter Owens, and had been planning to re-float the group in three years' time.

But the real loser is Royal and Sun Alliance who, say insiders, were desperate to block AXA, which as a result of this deal will move into third place in the British insurance industry ahead of Allied Zurich and Legal and General. However, RSA shareholders had been reluctant to approve the full cash alternative that the GRE board were seeking on behalf of institutions. The value of RSA's offer was being undermined as last week wore on by the fall in the value of its shares.

It is understood that the Sun Life management believe to make £50m savings a year as a result of the deal but will be able to get by with several hundred job losses as opposed to the 5,000 that the Royal Sun Alliance deal would have cut.

Peter Owens, who joined GRE when it acquired health-care group PPP last year, is expected to be offered a senior role as is Sir Colin Chandler, who has just taken over as GRE chairman, while John Robins, group chief executive, will retire.

### BRIEFING

**Economy looking rosy, says ITEM**

MEDIUM TERM prospects for the economy are rosy, according to a new report by the Ernst & Young ITEM club, an independent group of economists which uses the Government's own model to evaluate official forecasts. Despite short-term gloom - it predicts a recession in the first half of 1999 - output is set to grow by more than 2 per cent per year in the first few years of the new millennium. ITEM predicted that this sharp upturn in growth would not be accompanied by a surge in prices, with a strong exchange rate coupled with residual weakness in the consumer sector keeping inflation close to target.

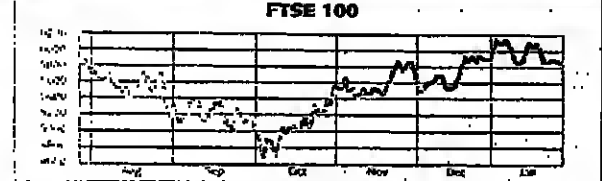
### Barclays aims to cut £300m

BARCLAYS BANK is hoping to save a further £300m a year from the streamlining of its retail banking division which took effect last month. Marketing services are being reformed to concentrate on providing a de luxe service for premium customers as well as a standard service for others. The reforms are intended to eliminate overlap between the bank's different products and marketing services. They will involve continuing job cuts at the high street bank. The bank's 30-year-old blue and white branch logo could also be updated if a prototype new branch now being tested at Stockport, near Manchester, is successful.

### Tarmac close to demerging

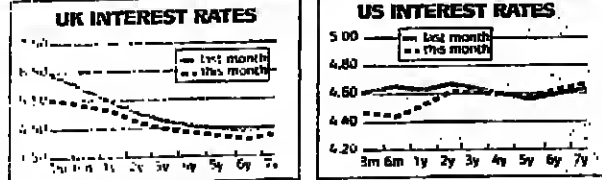
TARMAC, the construction and building materials group, is close to a decision on demerging the two sides of its business to create shareholder value. Analysts say the construction business could be worth £500m and the building materials division up to £800m, compared with a current market value of £1.04bn for the group and a share price of less than 12 times forecast earnings for 1998.

### STOCK MARKETS



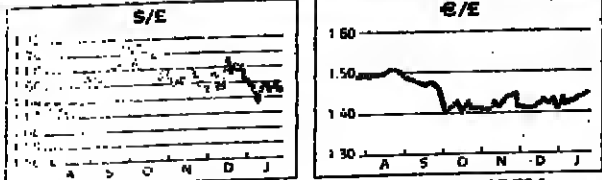
Index	Close	1W % ch	1M % ch	3M % ch	YTD % ch	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	5896.00	34.90	0.83	6195.6	4599.2	2740	2740	1,240,000
FTSE 250	5024.20	19.10	4.04	5270.9	4247.6	2566	2566	1,240,000
FTSE 350	2793.40	30.80	1.12	2969.1	2210.4	2822	2822	1,240,000
FTSE All Share	2695.94	30.58	1.15	2886.52	2143.53	2868	2868	1,240,000
FTSE SmallCap	2131.20	35.10	1.82	2793.8	1834.4	2776	2776	1,240,000
FTSE Fledgling	1188.20	10.90	0.93	1517.1	1046.2	4549	4549	1,240,000
FTSE AIM	834.90	16.60	2.03	1146.9	761.3	1187	1187	1,240,000
FTSE Europe 100	2786.59	25.42	2.78	3079.27	2018.15	2126	2126	1,240,000
FTSE Europe 300	1214.89	34.54	2.93	1332.07	880.63	1985	1985	1,240,000
Case Jones	9348.83	238.16	2.61	9647.06	7400.3	1636	1636	1,240,000
Nikkei	14699.25	344.85	2.44	17352.35	12787.9	1002	1002	1,240,000
Hang Seng	9506.90	231.62	2.38	11926.16	6544.79	3700	3700	1,240,000
Dax	5159.96	140.68	2.80	6217.83	3833.71	1667	1667	1,240,000
S&P 500	1279.32	54.05	4.41	1278.05	923.32	1237	1237	1,240,000
Nasdaq	2504.94	165.80	7.09	2477.47	1357.09	2723	2723	1,240,000
Ivorito 300	6725.10	135.19	2.05	7837.7	5320.9	1579	1579	1,240,000
Brazil Bovespa	8171.56	381.35	13.63	12339.14	4575.69	2701	2701	1,240,000
Belgium Euronext	3411.50	27.62	0.82	3713.21	2583.46	2081	2081	1,240,000
Australian ASX	532.09	13.36	2.58	600.65	366.58	1847	1847	1,240,000
Chinese CAC 40	4251.60	232.47	5.78	4404.94	2881.21	1899	1899	1,240,000
Asian Nikkei 225	34672.00	827.00	2.75	39170	24175	1178	1178	1,240,000
Madrid IBEX 35	9878.80	266.80	2.78	10989.8	6869.9	1863	1863	1,240,000
Iran Overall	5166.22	67.37	1.29	5581.7	3735.57	1468	1468	1,240,000
S. Africa Comp	571.43	20.85	3.79	651.95	277.37	1041	1041	1,240,000
Australia ASX	2693.60	45.40	1.59	2902.9	2386.7	3175	3175	1,240,000

### INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	5 year	10 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.82	-1.75	5.50	-2.00	4.11	-1.96	4.17	-1.89
US	4.97	-0.68	5.06	-0.66	4.66	0.91	5.10	0.75
Japan	0.43	-0.30	0.48	-0.26	2.07	0.01	3.07	0.40
Germany	5.07	-0.47	2.98	-0.82	3.64	-1.44	4.59	-1.09

### CURRENCIES



Index	Close	1W % ch	1M % ch	3M % ch	YTD % ch	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	5896.00	34.90	0.83	6195.6	4599.2	2740	2740	1,240,000
FTSE 250	5024.20	19.10	4.04	5270.9	4247.6	2566	2566	1,240,000
FTSE 350	2793.40	30.80	1.12	2969.1	2210.4	2822	2822	1,240,000
FTSE All Share	2695.94	30.58	1.15	2886.52	2143.53	2868	2868	1,240,000
FTSE SmallCap	2131.20	35.10	1.82	2793.8	1834.4	2776	2776	1,240,000
FTSE Fledgling	1188.20	10.90	0.93	1517.1	1046.2	4549	4549	1,240,000
FTSE AIM	834.90	16.60	2.03	1146.9	761.3	1187	1187	1,240,000
FTSE Europe 100	2786.59	25.42	2.78	3079.27	2018.15	2126	2126	1,240,000
FTSE Europe 300	1214.89	34.54	2.93	1332.07	880.63	1985	1985	1,240,000
Case Jones	9348.83	238.16	2.61	9647.06	7400.3	1636	1636	1,240,000
Nikkei	14699.25	344.85	2.44	17352.35	12787.9	1002	1002	1,240,000
Hang Seng	9506.90	231.62	2.38	11926.16	6544.79	3700	3700	1,240,000
Dax	5159.96	140.68	2.80	6217.83	3833.71	1667	1667	1,240,000
S&P 500	1279.32	54.05	4.41	1278.05	923.32	1237	1237	1,240,000
Nasdaq	2504.94	165.80	7.09	2477.47	1357.09	2723	2723	1,240,000
Ivorito 300	6725.10	135.19	2.05	7837.7	5320.9	1579	1579	1,240,000
Brazil Bovespa	8171.56	381.35	13.63	12339.14	4575.69	2701	2701	1,240,000
Belgium Euronext	3411.50	27.62	0.82	3713.21	2583.46	2081	2081	1,240,000
Australian ASX	532.09	13.36	2.58	600.65	366.58	1847	1847	1,240,000
Chinese CAC 40	4251.60	232.47	5.78	4404.94	2881.21	1899	1899	1,240,000
Asian Nikkei 225	34672.00	827.00	2.75	39170	24175	1178	1178	1,240,000
Madrid IBEX 35	9878.80	266.80	2.78	10989.8	6869.9	1863	1863	1,240,000
Iran Overall	5166.22	67.37	1.29	5581.7	3735.57	1468	1468	1,240,000
S. Africa Comp	571.43	20.85	3.79	651.95	277.37	1041	1041	1,240,000
Australia ASX	2693.60	45.40	1.59	2902.9	2386.7	3175	3175	1,240,000

### OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	1W % ch	1M % ch	3M % ch	YTD % ch	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol
FTSE 100	5896.00	34.90	0.83	6195.6	4599.2	2740	2740	1,240,000
FTSE 250	5024.20	19.10	4.04	5270.9	4247.6	2566	2566	1,240,000
FTSE 350	2793.40	30.80	1.12	2969.1	2210.4	2822	2822	1,240,000
FTSE All Share	2695.94	30.58	1.15	2886.52	2143.53	2868	2868	1,240,000
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S. Africa Comp	571.43	20.85	3.79	651.95	277.37	1041	1041	1,240,000
Australia ASX	2693.60	45.40	1.59	2902.9	2386.7	3175	3175	1,240,000

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2,5106	Mexican (nuevo peso)	19.21
Austria (schillings)	19.21	Netherlands (guilders)	3,0765
Belgium (francs)	56.42	New Zealand (\$)	2,9268
Canada (\$)	2,4098	Norway (kroner)	12.02
France (francs)	0,8094	Portugal (escudos)	278.73
Germany (marks)	10.46	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5,9899
Denmark (kroner)	8,3785	Singapore (\$)	2,6532
Finland (markka)	9,1771	South Africa (rand)	9,5782
Greece (dracmas)	2,7459	Spain (pesetas)	232.42
Italy (lire)	450.00	Sweden (kronor)	12.49
Japan (yen)	12.28	Switzerland (francs)	2,2608
Hong Kong (\$)	1,0994	Thailand (bahts)	55.72
Ireland (pounds)	62.73	Turkey (liras)	52,5737
India (rupees)	6,2288	USA (\$)	1,5878
Israel (shekels)	2719		
Italy (lire)	185.95		
Japan (yen)	9,9208		
Malaysia (ringgits)	0.6075		

Notes for information purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook



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## SPORT

Cricket: In-form batsman's fight for fitness takes on an added significance after another crucial contribution

## England's fate tied to Fairbrother

BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY  
in Perth

IT IS doubtful that the nation will ever become as worked up about the state of Neil Fairbrother's hamstring as it did, say, about Denis Compton's knee or Red Rum's fetlocks. Still, the noise of the twang from that direction should be an increasing source of concern.

If it did not exactly reverberate round the Waca ground in Perth the other night - though probably only because it was drowned out by the crowd chanting "We all hate the fat boy" at Arjuna Ranatunga - the grimace on Fairbrother's face did not need sound accompaniment. No firm prognosis has yet been made but the likelihood is that Fairbrother will be forced to miss both England's remaining qualifying matches in the Carlton & United Series and is not certain to make the final. Or he could recover in time for the lot.

At 35 and in his final coming as an international player Fairbrother has been splendid in this triangular tournament. Coming in at No 5 he has brought a weight of experience and intelligence to the batting. Without him and his method in Perth, England would never have come unstuck from the gum tree in which they were enmeshed.

His commanding, clever innings gave them a competitive score from which they won the match and their participation in the final was confirmed yesterday when Sri Lanka lost to Australia by 45 runs. Sri Lanka cannot now qualify. This week's matches are for practice only and if you suspect that, after each side has played eight games in 21 days, practice may not be needed tell that to the organisers. Whether fit or injured, Fairbrother should be rested this week.

The England manager, David Graveney, recognises the immense importance he has suddenly assumed and it may also have crossed his mind that a tweaked 35-year-old hamstring in the World Cup could mean absence from two or three crucial group matches. Fairbrother has said that the injury at the Waca did not give off the gunshot crack associated with such incidents when they are likely to have long-term effects but an air rifle pop is sufficient cause for worry.

"He has played in 10 one-day finals at Lord's and in a World Cup final," said Graveney. "He is a wise person within the team. Any England team needs someone like him. He's a throwback." If this begged the question of why Fairbrother did not play in England's one-day side between the last World Cup and in February 1996 and October 1998 the answer was probably to be found less in a fading of his irksome, scurrying batting style than a plethora of ankle, knee and hamstring pulls, twists and strains.

Fairbrother's form on this tour has represented a genuine comeback and it was no surprise that Graveney happily compared him to Michael Bevan, the Australian left-hander whose figures show him to be the best one-day batsman in the world. "Bevan is a more physical batsman who plays with the inner ring and chips



The Australian batsman Michael Bevan square cuts on his way to a match-winning 72 not out as Australia overcame Sri Lanka in Perth yesterday

Allsport

over it. Neil is the archetypal nicker of singles. They are very similar players in a way though one's younger and probably runs faster. But Neil's pacing off the bat in the inner ring is better than Bevan's."

It has been a pleasure to watch Fairbrother in this tournament (and his fielding at short midwicket and cover has lost nothing to the lads in their 20's either) but he missed one match as a precautionary measure and the latest stretch is a warning of his vulnerability. When Graveney mentioned that there were two physiotherapists in the squad, one for the rest of the team and one for Harvey, as he is always known, it was a joke but will remain so only so long as Fairbrother's man can keep him going.

England have not been consistently excellent in getting this far, they still have weaknesses but they have also shown that they have resilience. The difficult situations

have sometimes been of their own making but they have the will and the balance in the side to get out of them. It is inevitable that one-day matches will be lost occasionally, regardless of the apparent superiority of a side. That is why a long haul competition such as the Carlton & United is likely to come up with the best team.

Ten games each before the final tends to eliminate the element of good fortune. The obvious and correct conclusion from this is that Sri Lanka are in a mess. Their cause cannot have been helped by the Muttiah Muralitharan Episode which had an insidious whispering campaign as a pre-amble and a call for throwing

as a denouement. That gave way to the Ranatunga Affair, which lasted a week and the repercussions of which will continue for a long time. Sri Lanka have been up against it on the bouncy pitches and look in need of fresh impetus. Their pinch-hitting campaign may have run its course and, for all his willing-

ness, Ranatunga's field settings and bowling changes can be inflexible. In Perth yesterday Australia were allowed to make too many and although Sri Lanka looked as though they might make a fist of it they always had to come from behind.

When Sanath Jayasuriya was struck above the wrist by Brendon Julian's unexpected lifter and was forced to retire hurt they were plunged into deeper trouble. The Australians merely had to be patient.

As for Muralitharan, Lancashire were last night considering their response to the Sri Lankan cricket board after being told that the bowler may not be available for the County Championship next year. The Sri Lankan Board of Control announced they want the controversial bowler to rest after this summer's World Cup, at a time when he was expected to join the Red Rose county for the last two months of the season.

There has even been discussion among the TMGC about the possibility of withdrawing the availability of their grounds for Tests.

"We are talking about the need to provide the best facilities for crowds in the region of 20,000, including state-of-the-art corporate and media facilities," Yorkshire chief executive Chris Hassell, said, adding that the money TMGC received, above the £1m allocated to each county, was just enough to pay

for the increased staff required to sell Test match tickets. "In 2000 there will be seven Tests and around 11 one-day internationals and the ECB will want to use our grounds for most of those matches," Hassell said. "Yet they are not prepared to provide the money to help keep the grounds up to date."

Hampshire vice-captain Shaun Udal has broken his ankle after being started by a car's horn while he was out on a pre-season training run.

## Ferretting out the hawkish truth about 'Pigeon'

Rugby Rebel:  
The Alan Tait Story  
Alan Tait with Bill Lothian  
Ministream.  
£14.99 hardback

SPORT IS littered with fairytales. But you have to look to Alan Tait, the Scotland international rugby union wing and Great Britain rugby league player, to discover a ferret tale.

Tait, the Scotland three-quarter who rejoined union after nine years playing the 13-man code for Widnes and Leeds, is keen on field sports and has enjoyed the companionship of lurchers, terriers and ferrets since childhood.

These last, like the dogs, are working creatures. It is unlikely that he would regard ferrets as fashion accessories. And it is safe to conclude therefore that he would not purchase the anthropomorphic designer gear

## BOOK OF THE WEEK

- mock leather bikers' jackets, lacy lingerie, straw hats etc - which has just come on the market aimed specifically at ferrets (or more accurately, their owners' wallets).

A moving moment at a recent Edinburgh Reivers training session is a measure of the esteem in which he holds ferrets. Tait and his colleagues observed a 10-second silence in memory of Rex, a white ferret who went missing in action.

This book is different from many of its type. Tait, who is in the Scotland squad for next Saturday's Five Nations opener against Wales at Murrayfield, it would appear, lives up to the title. He is outspoken and, at times, outrageous.

Considering this left-winger is left wing, his boycott of Prime Minister Tony Blair's reception for the triumphant Lions was quite something. As he explains: "I felt my principles would not allow me to attend a party in our honour at 10, Downing Street... There are many places I would have followed the victorious Lions...

But Tait is also honest about himself, relating one instance when he proved to be as adept at exploiting legal loopholes as at finding gaps in defences. He and his Widnes team-

mates played on a Sunday and therefore were technically available for employment from Monday to Friday. The loophole in the law was that "working on a Sunday didn't count as regular employment so I... filled in... forms to qualify for a special payment... I was getting £40 a week benefit." He eventually suffered a pang of conscience and stopped claiming.

Tait and his co-author do not dwell too long on the "match-fixes what I have played in" formula which dogs so many of these autobiographies. And Tait is old enough to have achieved something, even if he is still only in his mid-30s.

He also reveals the truth (well, what he claims is the truth) behind his nickname "Pigeon", but is hawkish about much else. A better read than you might think.

David Llewellyn

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David Llewellyn

## Ireland are the Five Nations value at 40-1

NEVER FALL into the trap of trying to back the winner. That is the value-seeking punter's mantra. And, while favourite backers may feel that, in tipping Ireland at 40-1 with the Tote for the Five Nations' Championship, said hazard is being circumnavigated with certifiable ease, an upset is possible. England and France both have to travel to Ireland, Wales are doubly handicapped by a lack of pace and no home games and Scotland have two hopes (Bob Hope and no hope).

Tottenham v Wimbledon: Will it ever end? Tomorrow's FA Cup fourth round replay must produce a result but, given the stalemates between the pair in recent weeks, a draw is the bet over 90 minutes. Chelsea may make the most of their second chance against Oxford on Wednesday, while Manches-

## SPORTS BETTING

BY IAN DAVIES

ter United can beat Derby in their premiership game.

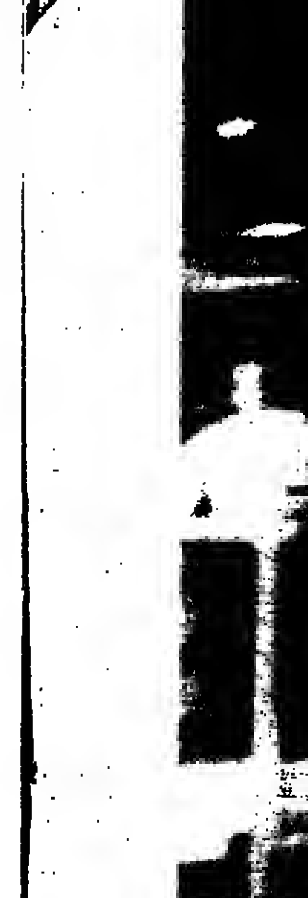
## FIVE NATIONS

	C	H	I	T
England	43	55	56	8-11
France	64	65	54	5-4
Wales	104	91	124	12-1
Ireland	181	201	251	40-1
Scotland	100-1	50-1	60-1	60-1

## FOOTBALL

	C	H	I	S	T
Tottenham	10-11	5-6	4-5	10-11	10-11
draw	11-5	9-4	2-1	11-5	2-1
Wimbledon	13-5	11-4	12	13-5	3-1
Chelsea	1-5	1-5	1-5	2-5	1-5
draw	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1	4-1
Oxford	11-1	11-1	12-1	10-1	10-1
Man Utd	4-8	4-8	2-5	4-8	4-8
draw	5-2	5-2	3-1	11-4	13-5
Derby	12-2	13-2	6-1	6-1	6-1
C. Cup, H. Williams 10-1, L. Lush, S. Shady 7-5					

Adam



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# Russian resolve kills off Enqvist

YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV completed a stirring comeback to secure his second Grand Slam title, claiming the Australian Open with a 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 7-6 victory over Thomas Enqvist in Melbourne yesterday.

The 24-year-old Russian, seeded 10th in the championships, was run ragged in the opening set but drew on the experience of his 1996 French Open success to wear down his powerful opponent.

Kafelnikov said: "It's a great feeling to win this title as it is the last one of this century. Thomas made it very hard for me in the final but I just hung in there and hoped for the best."

And with reference to the absent world No 1 Pete Sampras, resting through fatigue, he joked: "I'd just like to thank Pete, wherever you are, for making this possible."

Enqvist went into this morning's final on the back of a 14-match winning run which had seen him take the Adelaide title and the Colonial Classic in Kooynong. And the unseeded Swede could also boast a 4-2 advantage over Kafelnikov from their previous encounters.

But the pressure of his first Grand Slam final proved too much for the world No 21 in front of a packed Flinders Park Centre Court crowd. He graciously paid tribute to his conqueror, saying: "First of all I must congratulate Yevgeny. He played too solid for me and is a worthy champion. Hopefully I can return here next year and go all the way."

Kafelnikov surrendered the first break of serve after a wild volley followed by a double-fault gifted the fifth game to

TENNIS  
BY TONY KELSBAW

Enqvist. Five games later Enqvist survived his first break point before a deep serve proved decisive on his fourth set point.

The second game of the second set saw a swing in momentum as a fierce return of serve from Kafelnikov helped him to a 2-0 lead after Enqvist had clawed back two break points from love-40. Enqvist lost his next service game to love after throwing away three of the four points with unforced errors. And another sloppy display in the sixth game helped Kafelnikov level the match with a whitewash.

Enqvist recovered his fighting spirit to take Kafelnikov to deuce five times before finally going 1-0 down in the third set. But his head was soon bowed again after a dubious line call at 30-40 helped the Russian double that advantage. Enqvist finally stopped the rot after nine games without a win and then amazingly recovered his first set zest to break back.

But his temperament again faltered in an erratic eighth game, whereas Kafelnikov held his nerve and his serve to take a two sets to one lead after surviving another break point.

The fourth set went comprehensively with serve, rounded off by Kafelnikov taking the 12th game to love. But the tie-break brought back all the demons of the second set for Enqvist as he fell tamer to a 5-0 deficit. He claimed one break back, but then lost the championship with a double-fault.



Thomas Enqvist (left) is consoled by the new Australian Open champion Yevgeny Kafelnikov yesterday. *Allsport*

## Hingis' triumph promises more

MARTINA HINGIS joined tennis greats Margaret Court, Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Monica Seles in claiming her third Australian Open title with an assured win over big-hitting Anabelle Mauresmo.

Switzerland's world number two met the groundstroke bombs of the unseeded French challenger with a dazzling array of winners to take the 67-minute all-teenage Melbourne final 6-2 6-3.

Court (11), Graf (4) and Seles (4) may have won more Australian titles, but Hingis let it be known that more silverware was on the way with her confident performance against Mauresmo, who shocked world number one Lindsay Davenport in the semi-finals.

Hingis said she had played "awesome tennis all week" in winning her 21st consecutive match in the tournament, with some of her shots to see off Mauresmo's challenge bringing prolonged applause from the Centre Court crowd.

Mauresmo, who overpowered Davenport, attempted the same tactics against Hingis, but the 18-year-old champion met the heavy artillery with some audacious shot-making and precision passing shots off her forehand and backhand.

"I made the more important

points when it was really needed," said Hingis. "This time I was better. I had more experience, but the next time, you never know. She has great potential."

It took Hingis until her seventh match point before she could finally put away the plucky world number 29, who drew sympathetic crowd support following days of headlines, stemming from derogatory comments by Davenport and Hingis over her sexuality and physique.

Pat Rafter and Jonas Bjorkman came out on top of a heroic battle against top seeds Leander Paes and Mahesh

Bhupathi to win the men's doubles final 6-3 4-6 6-4 6-7 (12/10) 6-4.

The fifth-seeded Swedish/Australian combination overcame the Indian duo in three hours 16 minutes, dashing hopes of the sub-continent's first grand slam title. It was Bjorkman's second successive Australian Open triumph.

"We've been improving in every tournament. Both of us are hitting the ball well and we're a good partnership," said Bjorkman.

A happy Rafter said it was more satisfying than winning his second US Open singles title last year.

## Williams and Hendry are made to wait

STEPHEN HENDRY gained a slender advantage over the man of the moment, Mark Williams, as the two men went into the final session of the Welsh Open final in Cardiff last night.

Given the bizarre scheduling of the contest, the players had plenty of time to reflect on their performances before resuming the battle for a £60,000 first prize. Hendry and Williams were at the table for only 98 minutes before facing a four-and-a-half hour wait to resume the match.

The first ranking tournament final of 1999 saw Hendry hold a 4-3 lead, which was an encouraging start for the 30-year-old Scot, who had lost two major finals against Williams.

"I certainly owe him one," Hendry said after qualifying for his 80th final on Saturday night with a 6-4 semi-final success over Joe Swail. For the first time in years Hendry went into a final as the second favourite.

The Scot compiled three centuries in six frames in the penultimate round to fill himself with renewed confidence. But

SNOOKER

neither player really settled down in the opening stages, watched by the latest capacity crowd at the International Arena.

Williams, appearing in his fourth successive final, was bidding to become the seventh player to win back-to-back ranking titles after his triumph in the Irish Open last month, but only the second Welsh cue-man after Doug Mountjoy.

He twice trailed by a couple of frames as Hendry got the jump on him early on.

Breaks of 57, 43 and 39 took him 2-0 clear but he contributed just eight points in the next two frames as Williams levelled.

The local favourite had a chance to hit the front in frame five but for once his usually deadly accuracy let him down when trying to pot an easy red.

Hendry made a 67 clearance and 56 in frame four to regain his two frames cushion. Twenty minutes later the two shook hands with Williams right back in contention, only one adrift and 10 frames left to decide the outcome of the trophy.

## Bobyck sinks Storm with overtime strike

MANCHESTER STORM saw their lead at the top of the Superleague cut to three points after a 2-1 overtime defeat at Nottingham Panthers.

A rare strike from forward Brent Bobyck handed Panthers the points in the fourth minute of overtime.

It capped a fine fightback from Mike Blaisdell's side, who forced the added 10 minutes thanks to Mike Bishop's game-tying goal on 55:46.

Nottingham's cause was not helped when Darryl Leowen was forced to leave the ice in the second period after his wife went into labour.

Cardiff capitalised on Storm's slip when they beat troubled Sheffield Steelers 3-1.

ICE HOCKEY

Steelers, who went into the game with the threat of liquidation hanging over the club, fell behind to Merv Priest's goal on the quarter-hour.

Peter Ekroth added a second before Tony Hand pulled one back for Steelers.

Vezio Sacratini ensured the Sheffield side would not break their duck with two minutes left.

Newcastle Riverkings recorded their biggest win of the season with a shock 7-2 victory in Bracknell.

The win, only their second in seven games against the Bees, enabled the north-east side to climb off the bottom at the expense of London Knights.

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GRANADA

## Francis is too strong for Reid

BOXING

JULIUS FRANCIS' mental fortitude carried him to a remarkable British heavyweight title win over Peter Reid in Bethnal Green on Saturday night.

The 34-year-old demolished the previously unbeaten Reid inside four rounds, fighting with an intensity and desire to match any previous holder of this coveted crown.

Francis pole-axed his opponent with a booming right in the last minute of the third, and, after following up bungly with a bombardment of books, referee Richie Davies intervened to spark riotous celebrations on a York Hall night to remember. Promoter Frank Maloney, who took extra delight in beating one of Frank Warren's top prospects, roared: "I haven't felt this happy since Lennox Lewis beat Razor Ruddock."

## AYR

### HYPERION

2.10 Red Hot Indian 2.40 Mike Stan (nb)  
3.10 Wee Annie 3.40 Rocketball 4.10  
Bright Destiny 4.40 Ballet-K

GOING: Heavy.  
Left-hand galloping course; run-in 20yds.  
Course in E of town on A758. Any auction (apart from Glasgow) in. ADMISSION: Club £4; Grandstand £7 (OAP's half-price). CAR PARK: Free.  
LEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 24-40 (72%), L Lums 22-42 (62%), J J O'Neill 19-12 (7%), P McNeill 18-30 (32%).  
LEADING JOCKEYS: A Dobbin 30-76 (21%), B Storey 24-158 (52%), P Niven 19-19 (16%), R Supple 18-90 (20%).  
FAVOURITES: 54-982 (33%).  
LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS: Ballet-K (440) has been sent 367 miles.  
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Seaburn (210).

2.10 FAIRFOLD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,500 added 2m

1 BRIVE MONTGOMERIE (P28) Miss L. Parnell 5 11.3  
2 CHOCOLATE DRUM (289) J J O'Neill 6 11.3  
3 POP-P LYNDALE KING (87) L Lums 6 11.3  
4 1-43 RED HOT INDIAN (87) (P) L Lums 6 11.3  
5 05-083 SILVER HOWE (21) D McNeil 6 11.3  
6 36-083 LINDA JANE (20) D Whithers 7 10.12  
7 BETTING: 11-4 Lindalwa, 7-4 Red Hot Indian, 5-1 Silver How, Brive Montgomerie, 20-1 Lynvalde King, 35-1 Chocolate Drum.

FORM VERDICT  
This looks a good opportunity for RED HOT INDIAN, though it will be interesting to see how Brive Montgomerie gets on now he goes over hurdles.

## 2.40 KEN OLIVER BIRTHDAY NOVICE CHASE (E) £5,000 2m 5f 110yds

1 22U ADVENTURUS (P48) M Hammond 7 11.3  
2 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
3 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
4 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
5 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
6 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
7 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
8 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
9 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
10 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
11 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
12 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3

## 3.10 WATER OF GIRVAN NOVICE HURDLE (E) £3,500 3m 110yds

1 40-1 JUST AN EXCUSE (P4) J J O'Neill 6 11.3  
2 1-433 FLIGHTY LEADER (27) D J Lums 7 11.3  
3 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
4 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
5 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
6 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
7 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
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9 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
10 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
11 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
12 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3

## 3.40 RIVER AYR HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 4f

1 30-04 RACKETBALL (P4) Miss V. Williams 8 12.0  
2 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
3 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
4 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
5 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
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10 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
11 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
12 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3

## 4.10 EGLINTON AMATEUR HANDICAP CHASE (E) £5,000 added 3m 1f

1 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
2 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
3 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
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10 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
11 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
12 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3

## 4.40 STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT (H) £2,000 1m 10f 100yds

1 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
2 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
3 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
4 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
5 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
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11 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3  
12 03-221 AREN'T WE LUCKY (18) J J O'Neill 8 11.3

## SNOW REPORTS in association with WorldCover Direct

Resort	Area open	Comment	Slopes (cm)	Last snow	Temp	Forecast
ANDORRA						
Soldeu	100%	Great skiing	80 100	17.01	-4C	Bright
AUSTRIA						
Haus	95%	Great high up	50 100	29.01	-5C	Stormy
Mayrhofen	98%	Gd at altitude	50 150	30.01	-5C	Unsettled
CANADA						
Whistler	100%	Packed snow	285 285	27.01	-3C	Cloudy
FRANCE						
Flaine	80%	Upper runs best	75 210	29.01	-2C	Changeable
St Francois	85%	Gd on upper runs	90 190	29.01	-3C	Changeable
ITALY						
Cervinia	90%	Good skiing	30 130	29.01	-3C	Lt snow
NORWAY						
Hemsedal	100%	Conditions good	70 80	28.01	-2C	Cloudy
SCOTLAND						
Glencoe	90%	Gd skiing	10 15	29.01	2C	Clear
SWITZERLAND						
Les Diablerets	80%	Superb cover	50 150	29.01	-3C	Cold, clear
UNITED STATES						
Mount Snow	80%	Granular snow	45 60	26.01	-1C	Cloudy

Information supplied by Ski Hotline

Helpline: 0870 51 33 345

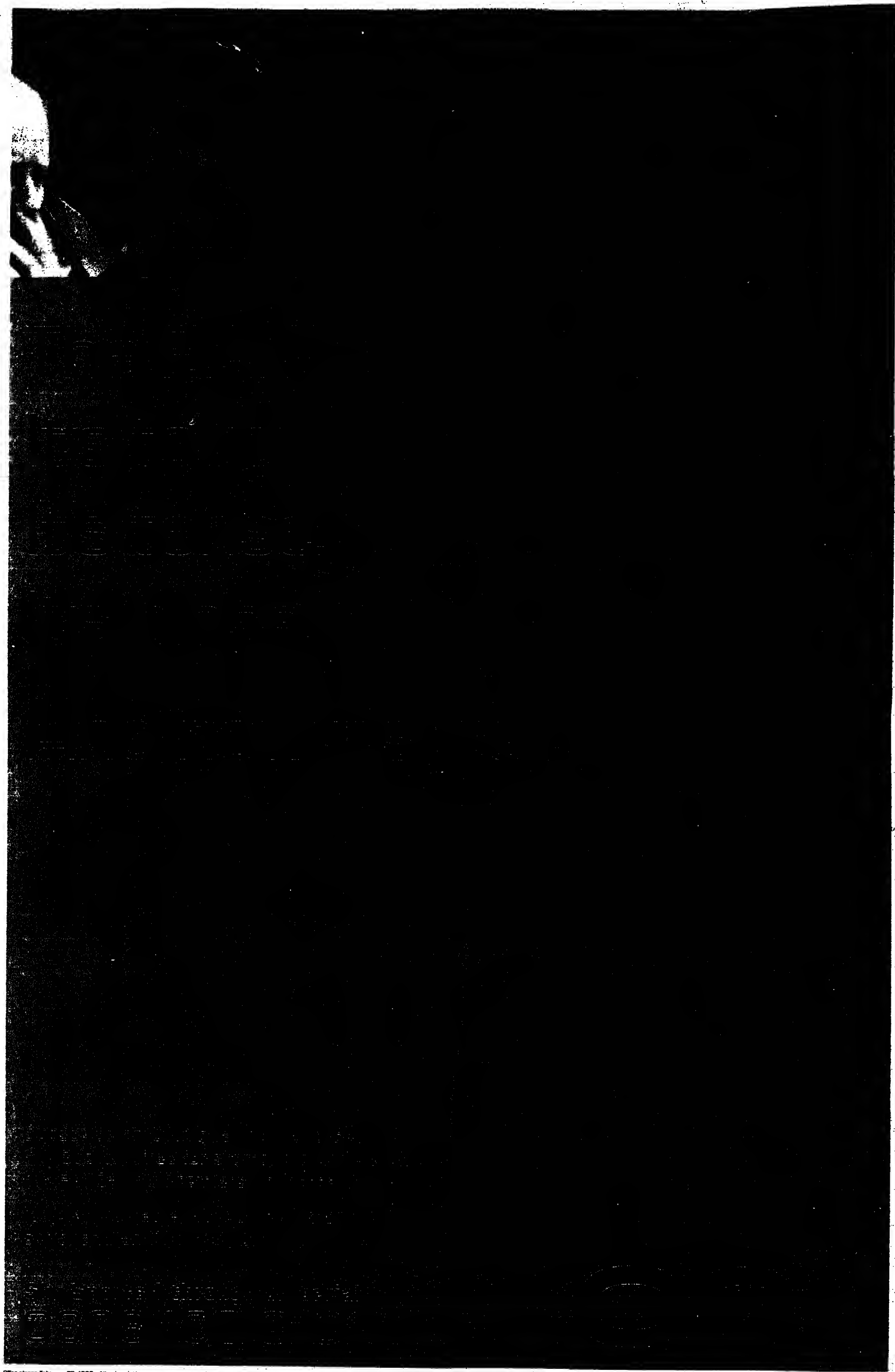
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# League Positive Palmer has Forest firing again



Palmer: Atkinson accolade

IF A manager can rescue a situation by pulling a trusted talisman out of the old bag of tricks, then Carlton Palmer is the likeliest man to do the business for Ron Atkinson.

BY DAVE HADFIELD

Everton 0  
Nottingham Forest 1

The new Forest manager's admiration for the player he has made his first permanent signing stops just this side of Mills and Boon. "The only people who know what a good player he is are the people who play with him and the people who work with him," he gushed after Palmer had added the people who try in vain to get past him to that list.

Atkinson may yet use Palmer in his more accustomed position in midfield but, in the absence of Steve Chettle, employed him instead on Saturday in the centre of a defence that also included two other newcomers, both on loan.

His strength in the air, his telescopic tackling and his reading of the game made the crucial difference for Forest as they won for the first time in

20 Premiership matches. On a day when two of their relegation rivals also won, it was a victory that was vital if the gap between them and the rest was not to reach yawning proportions.

Even more significant was that Forest seemed at last to have the stomach for the fight - something for which Palmer was largely responsible in the view of the person he calls the boss-man. "He walked into the camp from day one and gave the place a lift," was the boss-man's ruling on his contribution to morale. "But there were a lot

of big, big performances out there and some big attitudes from our players. We rode our luck but, when you believe, you get your luck. Everton put us under a lot of pressure out there, but we survived and our keeper Dave Beasant pulled off some great saves. All I know is that if we keep playing like that we have a half a chance of escaping relegation.

Of course, Palmer and his other new arrivals were fortunate to have opposition as toothless as Everton to welcome them to the relegation dogfight.

But if there was ever a match in which Everton would have backed themselves to finally master the art of scoring goals at home, this was it; Forest had conceded more on their travels than any other side.

They had their chances, notably one blocked from Mitch Ward and one saved from John Ooster in the first half and close calls from Ibrahim Bakayoko and Nick Barnes in a frenetic six minute stretch of injury time at the end.

But Everton's overall display did not merit a win and they were denied even the familiar

scoreless draw by Pierre van Hooijdonk's goal five minutes into the second half.

It was richly ironic that a match dominated by the total commitment of Palmer should be won by a player whose interest in proceedings appeared so sporadic.

Van Hooijdonk's careless touch and a good opportunity stuffed shortly before his goal had triggered rumbles of complaint from the Forest fans; then he was given lavish time and space by Alan Rogers' square pass and all was forgotten, if not forgiven.

Those Forest fans had already been hailing themselves as "Big fat Ron's red and white army" before that breakthrough. Atkinson was brought in partly to engender that new optimism on the terraces. With Palmer as his lieutenant, he can maintain that same mood on the pitch, although the players might be encouraged to call him the boss-man rather than Big fat Ron.

Everton (3-5-2): Myhre; Dunne, Mortimer, Upworth; Ward (Barnes, 51). Grant (Dacourt, 62), Hutchinson, Barry; Bait Ooster, Cadamarteri (Bakayoko, 91). Substitutes not used: Simonson (94), Watson.



Chelsea's Graeme Le Saux (right) stays firmly focused on the ball despite the airborne attention of Arsenal midfielder Ray Parlour yesterday

## Ince in the shadow of Dutchman

BY JON CULLEY

Coventry City 2  
Liverpool 1

JUST WHEN it seemed they had rediscovered consistency, Liverpool slipped into old habits, turning in a performance that simply was not adequate against a Coventry side who deserve better than to be worrying about relegation.

Whether it was the news, finally confirmed, that Steve McManaman really is to leave in the summer, or whether it was the after-shock from the FA Cup defeat at Old Trafford, something put Liverpool off their stroke. Gerard Houllier may wonder if the revival of the last month was an illusion.

"We had chances but we also made mistakes and in the Premiership if you make a mistake you have to pay," the Frenchman said. His grasp of English is such that the pat explanations fall from his tongue quite effortlessly.

But he did allude, more meaningfully, to Coventry's spirit; and in a way from which it was understood that he felt Liverpool's was lacking. "They [Coventry] are fighting for their lives," he said, "but we have a fight, too, to get back to the top. Coventry wanted very much to win today."

Naturally, he singled out no one for criticism, excusing David James for letting in the goals on the grounds that his saves have won matches on other occasions. But if he fingers anyone in private it may well be Paul Ince, whose failure to impose himself has lately become an all-too-regular occurrence.

The England player famous for the curling lip and crunching tackle was out-fought and out-grown by George Boateng, the former Dutch Under-21 captain who did precisely the same when these sides met at Highfield Road 13 months ago.

Boateng, 23 and full of energy and power, was a good yard keener than 31-year-old Ince in almost every robust challenge. Then again, he is more Bryan Robson than Ince, a player managers like to call a good box-to-box man. But if the goal he scored, a diving

header, came from commitment and courage, the one he set up came with a subtle touch, a precisely lobbed pass that invited the willing Noel Whelan to put Coventry in control. What a pity. Glenn Hoddie may have mused as he watched from the directors' box, that he had not been born - sorry, reincarnated - an Englishman.

That Gordon Strachan, who clearly has an eye for a bargain, could sign him for just £250,000 is extraordinary. One can only assume that his previous club, Feyenoord, where his contract was running out when Coventry stepped in, made an enormous blunder.

Boateng's drive and Gary McAllister's nous on a sticky pitch that did not suit Jamie Redknapp gave Coventry a decisive edge, even though it took them an hour to impose themselves. The threat from Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler did not emerge until Coventry lost right-back Roland Nilsson at half-time and even then it was not until Houllier went for broke, sending on McManaman and Karl-Heinz Riedle, that the home side came under sustained attack.

Rigobert Song, the £2.5m Cameroon international, created a favourable impression in the 66 minutes he had in Liverpool's back three but Houllier needs to bring in further quality reinforcements, both alongside Song and further up the field before his side can mount a challenge of genuine substance.

Goals: Boateng (50) 1-0, Whelan (71) 2-0. McManaman (86) 2-1. Coventry City (4-4-2): Hedman; Nilsson (Green, 45), Williams, Shaw, Burrows; Boateng, McAllister, Solari, Froggatt; Whelan, Hutchy. Substitutes not used: Goatschne, Clement, Aloisi, Ogilvie (94).

Liverpool (3-5-2): James; Song (McManaman, 68), Staunton (Gerard 88), Mortimer, Redburn, Ince, Berger (Riedle 77), Borneo; Fowler, Owen. Substitutes not used: Harkness, Friedel (94).

Referee: M. Riley (Leeds). Bookings: Liverpool: Heggum, Song. Man of the match: Boateng. Attendance: 23,056.

## Yorke marches up the hill

BY STEVE TONGUE

Charlton Athletic 0  
Manchester United 1

MANCHESTER UNITED took the long road to the top of the Premiership yesterday, wading down highways and byways and into endless cul-de-sacs before Dwight Yorke completed the ascent in the 89th minute with a glancing header. It is the first time they have stood at the summit this season, apart from a 24-hour spell in early December, and climaxes a month of five straight victories and 16 goals.

Yet such was their lethargy for much of the afternoon, and Charlton's ceaseless endeavour, that a goalless draw seemed for a long time the more likely outcome. Only towards the end of each half did a United side that cost some £45m - more than 10 times as much as the

opposition - show the necessary urgency and create some chances.

Curtisley had understandably opted for the security of a third centre-half to counter Andy Cole and Yorke, using John Robinson as a right wing-back against his more celebrated Welsh team-mate Ryan Giggs. Making good use of the extra man in the centre of midfield, they prevented Roy Keane and Nicky Butt from establishing a flow of possession, while Chris Powell found time to go forward as well as guarding David Beckham.

For half an hour were alarmed only by Mark Kinsella's headed back pass, which almost reached Yorke before the goalkeeper, Simon Royce, and not until the last 10 minutes of the half did United establish a measure of authority, creating their first three chances.

Butt drove Keane's square pass just past the post, Royce made a smart one-handed stop from a Giggs volley and Henning Berg jabbed Giggs's cross wide. Against that, Charlton should have scored immediately before the interval: Peter Schmeichel rushed from goal to concede a corner, then pushed away Kinsella's kick as far as Neil Redfern, who could not keep his shot low enough. Referee Gary Willard

also turned down two penalty appeals for Charlton in first-half stoppage time.

Pushed back in the final quarter of the match, but still working their red socks off, the home side left five men back and seemed to have settled for a morale-boosting draw. They had reasonable expectations of achieving it as Butt twice shot with power rather than accuracy, and then stabbed the ball carelessly wide of the far post after playing a one-two with Yorke.

United, however, increased the pressure by bringing on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer as a third attacker and also introduced Paul Scholes, whose cross from the right it was that Yorke glanced in off the inside of a

post for his sixth goal in four games.

"We deserved to win the game because of the possession we had," said their manager Alex Ferguson. "But credit to Charlton. Their three centre-halves handled our two strikers as well as anyone has. It's a good result for us, because there are games where you have to dig in and find a result."

After looking on as Nottingham Forest, Southampton and Coventry all won on Saturday, Charlton desperately needed to find one as well, but this was not the United of their last League meetings a decade ago, beaten at Selhurst Park and sinking into the bottom half of the table as cries of "Bergie out" were heard. Charlton went down

that season, as they did after United's last visit to the Valley in 1957, when Bobby Charlton scored his first hat-trick.

Charlton have now lost nine of their last 10 league matches and gone 13 league matches without a win. The public announcer's parting shot yesterday, looking forward to seeing United return in the Premiership next year, sounded like a definition of optimism.

Goals: Yorke (59) 0-1. Charlton Athletic (3-5-2): Royce; Ruffo, Brown, Tiller, Robinson, Kinsella, R. Jones, Redfern, Powell; Hunt (Bright, 76), Pringle (Parter 87). Substitutes not used: Lee (94), Newton, Knoch, Park. Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel; Neville, Berg, Stam, Irwin, Beckham (Solskjaer 70), Keane, Butt (Scholes, 62), Giggs; Cole, Yorke. Substitutes not used: Van der Grint, P. Neville, Johnson. Referee: G. Willard (Sussex). Man of the match: Redfern. Attendance: 20,043.

## Kachloul's coolness fuels Saints' revival

BY ADAM SZRETER

Southampton 3  
Leeds United 0

MANAGERS, IT seems sometimes, cannot win. Barely a fortnight after Coventry's Gordon Strachan was rebuked for his over-exuberant touchline manners, Dave Jones found himself in the dock for not showing some emotion. The 7-1 defeat at Liverpool on their last Premiership outing and the FA Cup third-round defeat by Fulham were apparently his fault for not ranting and raving enough in the dug-out.

"People don't know me," Jones, a diehard Evertonian, said after Saturday's satisfying return to winning ways. "I'm not an emotional person but I kick every ball and it does hurt me. I can go back to my Stockport days as a manager and there was a result against Shrewsbury that I still haven't got out of my system yet, so Liverpool will take a lot longer than that."

Yet for all the talk, the only defence any manager will ever be able to rely on is results and the Southampton players responded to their manager's plight in the best possible way against a curiously out of sorts Leeds team. "I think they've shown what we're all about

today," Jones said of his players. "That's three home league games on the trot that we've won, and today you've seen us at our best."

All of which does not augur well for Matt Le Tissier injured and out of favour again until Saturday, he limped off after less than 10 minutes of the match with a calf strain, to be replaced by Stuart Ripley. Here he played through the middle, and his bustling style epitomised all that was good about Southampton's performance.

It was hard to fault the commitment of any of their players, and in Patrick Collier they have acquired a good attacking left-back whose accomplished style would add to the overall confidence of any team. The Moroccan Hassan Kachloul scored again and caught the eye: "He keeps getting better," Jones said, "but against Liverpool he was awful. He was playing against players he said he idolised and for 90 minutes

it looked like he was running round trying to get their autographs."

As for Leeds, David O'Leary probably had it right in saying he would give them all another chance after their most disappointing display since he became manager. They saw a lot of the ball and in Harry Kewell and Lee Bowyer at least two players who never stopped trying to make things happen. But up front the 18-year-old Alan Smith looked distinctly jaded after hustling on to the scene in recent weeks and rarely contributed to the cause.

So far life has been good to O'Leary since he took over from George Graham, but it might be that his real work is just about to begin. Goals: Kachloul (31) 1-0, Oakley (52) 2-0, Southampton (4-4-2): Jones; Hilley, Lundevam, Dodd, Collier; Oakley, Hughes, Le Tissier (Ripley, 10), Bridge, Gill, Kachloul; Beattie, O'Brien, Substitutes not used: Howells, Monk, Stengard (94), Leeds United (4-4-2): Hargrett; Woodgate, Radebe, Westerman, Harte; Haslam, Bowyer, Hopkins, Kewell; Smith, Henschel, Schuster; not used: Riekins, Wijnand, Halls, Kvarvik, Robinson (94). Referee: S. Dunn (Bristol). Bookings: Southampton: Lundevam, Hughes, Dodd, Leeds: Haslam, Bowyer, Smith, Woodgate. Man of the match: Kachloul. Attendance: 15,236.

# OUT NOW!

Inside... Darren Anderson, Ian Walker, George Graham

DAVID'S A WINNER! 27

STEFFEN FREUND

Want to know what's REALLY going on at WHITE HART LANE? Then make sure you get SPURS MONTHLY. With the latest issue including exclusive interviews with manager GEORGE GRAHAM, new signing STEFFEN FREUND and DAVID GINOLA, it's essential reading for all TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR fans!

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QPR	V	PORTSMOUTH	MILLWALL	V	GILLINGHAM
SWINDON	V	BURY	NOTTS COUNTY	V	READING
WEST BROM.	V	GRIMSBY	QUINCY UTO	V	OUNFERLINE
BRISTOL ROVERS	V	COLCHESTER	LIVINGSTON	V	PARTICK

\*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches

Home wins (0), NONE  
Away wins (0), NONE  
No score draws (0), NONE  
Score draws (0), NONE

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## SPORT

THE FAIRBROTHER FACTOR P18 • HAIL HUMPHREYS' HEROES P23

Football: England coach runs out of support at the FA and faces the sack despite a shortage of likely successors

## The end is nigh for Hoddle

BY GLENN MOORE  
Football Correspondent

THE TELLING phrase that Glenn Hoddle used when making his ill-considered and offensive remarks about people with disabilities - "what you sow, you have to reap" - is drawn from St Paul's Letter to the Galatians in the New Testament. This morning he may wish to consider a similar quotation from the Old Testament: "They have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind."

Hoddle today stands in the centre of another storm of his own making. As with previous tempests - over his World Cup diary, his promotion of Eileen Drewery, the reaction to poor performances against Sweden and Bulgaria, the premature World Cup exit and a series of minor gaffes - he is being sustained by the support of the Football Association.

That support, however, is no longer unquestioning. The removal of Graham Kelly and Keith Wiseman through their own misjudgements has cost him two of his greatest supporters in the committee rooms of Lancaster Gate. He was busy building bridges this weekend, meeting Liverpool's Noel White, a key player on the FA's International Committee and the man who brought down Terry Venables, and preparing his defence to a summons by Geoff Thompson, the acting FA chairman.

He will speak with Thompson, a down-to-earth Yorkshireman and JP by tomorrow night. There is much at stake for both men. Thompson has designs on filling the chairman's post permanently and this issue will be seen as a test of his judgement and strength.

There will be others, too, with an eye on this summer's election. Ken Bates has already reiterated his opposition to Hoddle while two other likely candidates, David Richards of Sheffield Wednesday and Ipswich's David Sheepshanks, are on the International Committee.

Thus this affair may not be entirely judged on its merits, nor be entirely decided by the thoughts of the usual coterie of senior International Committee men - Thompson, White, Richards and Sheepshanks. David Dein of Arsenal and Aston Villa's Doug Ellis, together with David Davies, the acting chief executive.

Not that the issue can be

BRYAN ROBSON  
(odds 6-4)

A surprisingly warm favourite. The credibility of Venables' former right-hand man seemed to have been shot to pieces two seasons ago, but has made a strong comeback this season with Middlesbrough.

JOHN GREGORY  
(5-1)

Clean-cut, confident young man who will appeal to the patriotic, having steered Aston Villa to the top with a side made up largely of Englishmen. Too inexperienced and too much going for him at club level.

KEVIN KEEGAN  
(5-1)

Inspirational leader whose attacking virtues will appeal to the populace. Criticised in the past for being defensively naïve, he appears to have made some concessions in that department at Fulham.

DAVID PLATT  
(7-1)

The most inexperienced candidate of all, having only just taken up his first coaching appointment at Sampdoria. Highly thought of, though, in the FA corridors of power and a definite future contender.

GERARD HOULLIER  
(8-1)

Former France coach who is finding the switch to club management in England a demanding experience. It is just possible he may be better suited to the more gentle pace of international management.

ARSENE WENGER  
(10-1)

If the day when a foreigner is appointed England coach is getting ever closer then the Frenchman heads the queue. With a major refit job in the Arsenal defence looming on the horizon, he feels that this is a good time to go.

MARTIN O'NEILL  
(14-1)

Passionate performer who has vast experience of international football from his Northern Ireland playing days. But still a relative newcomer to the managerial game and yet to prove he can handle big names.

ROY HODGSON  
(16-1)

The man-in-waiting barely six months ago. His star, however, plummeted along with Blackburn's decline. Nevertheless, he remains one of the best qualified for the job after his achievements with Switzerland.

GEORGE GRAHAM  
(20-1)

The League game may have forgiven him for the bangs scandal but it is unlikely that the FA has yet forgiven him. He has proved at all his clubs, if too cautious for some minds. He is also Scottish.

RUUD GULLIT  
(20-1)

Still to prove that great players can make great managers. His reputation after an impressive start was tarnished by the Chelsea sack and his commitment has been questioned at Newcastle.

BOBBY ROBSON  
(50-1)

Without doubt the most experienced candidate of all but surely too old at 62 - and would he want the hassle all over again? Probably yes. Enormously successful on the Continent since resigning in 1990.

TERRY VENABLES  
(50-1)

Once his friends in the media get to work those odds will come tumbling. Ideally suited to international management, as he proved last time, but has his enemies at the FA.

Odds supplied by William Hill

In chaos. On Thursday Hoddle is due to name a squad for next week's Wembley friendly with France, the world champions. Next month England entertain Poland in a European Championship match they cannot afford to lose if they are to maintain hope of qualifying.

If Hoddle goes, who takes over? That is another quandary for the FA. Even in the long term it is a difficult question. Bryan Robson is the bookies' favourite but he has turned down the job in the past and, though he is clearly progressing, is yet to convince as an obvious candidate on the basis of his stewardship of Middlesbrough.

Even were the FA to choose him, and if he was keen to accept a job that carries an enormous amount of extraneous pressure, it would take a while to persuade Middlesbrough to release him. The same applies to such contenders as David Platt, Kevin Keegan and Arsene Wenger. The only people available at short notice are Terry Venables, who carries a lot of baggage, Roy Hodgson, recently sacked by Blackburn, and Howard Wilkinson, the FA's technical director. Hoddle's assistant, John Gorman, can be discounted. Wilkinson is the most likely caretaker but it is hard to imagine him doing the job long-term.

At times like this it is hard to imagine anyone wanting to do the job permanently. On the football side the manager is hamstrung by the English game's surfeit of fixtures, concentration on club football and addition to foreign players. In addition there is a sensational, unforgiving press to be dealt with. In the same interview as the one where he espoused his unconventional views on reincarnation Hoddle made the untimely comment, with regard to his media relations, that "the gloves are off".

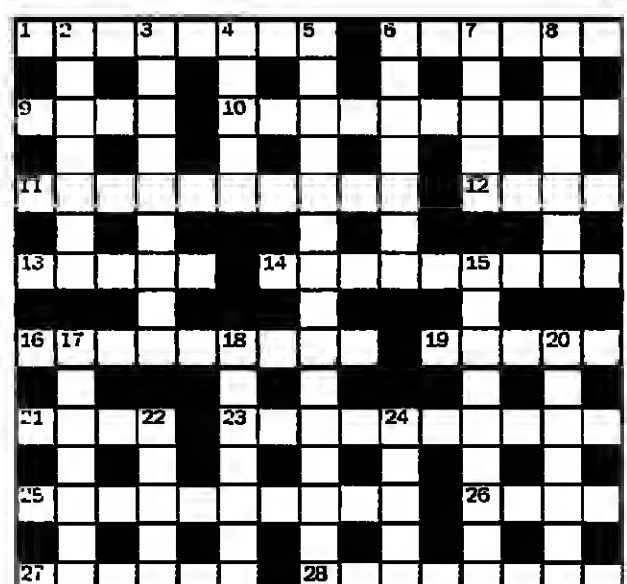
They are now and Hoddle is as much to blame as the tabloid media. This episode has underlined his lack of judgement as well as his lack of sensitivity. If he does not go now it seems inevitable that he will go sooner rather than later.

Given his beliefs, and the way he attempts to proselytise at every opportunity, he will doubtless regard himself as a martyr to his faith. To quote a more secular source, George Bernard Shaw, "martyrdom (is) the only way a man can become famous without ability".

## THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No 3534 Monday 1 February

by Esau



**ACROSS**  
1 Alerts PC, wildly describing a ghost (8)  
6 Whence the courage to go Dutch? (6)  
9 Breathe for a quick half, or a few shorts? (4)  
10 Hallucinogen may grab one? No, the first to leave (10)  
11 Damage to rear of vehicle later found in Welsh town (10)  
12 Fall for a wimp? (4)

**DOWN**  
2, 16 across I heard he may be a clever dick (7,9)  
3 Plant appearing in pantomime (not beanstalk)? (9)  
4 Maybe athlete has career blighted, lacking energy (5)  
5 Roman, 55, initially provided for one's meal-ticket (8,7)  
6 Copper's round to arrest noisy old hippy? (7)  
7, 19 across Bystander playing vital part in crowd scene? (5,5)  
8 Can seaside facility appear more crazy? (7)  
15 Anger over evidence, providing fiery defence (8)  
17 Woman - the second King Henry married? (7)  
18 Gets in a whirl, after first of these toys? (7)  
20 See 14 across  
22 See 13 across  
24 Languish in part of ancient Asia Minor (5)

26 Fantastic Scandinavian version of "The Godfather" (4)  
27 Shakespearean role - vehicle to get in the groove (8)  
28 Make fresh statement about note backing company (8)

**ACROSS**  
13, 22 down Note two tips for unravelling embroidery (5,5)  
14, 20 down Dog that's briefly given chocolate in a bar? (9,7)  
16 See 2 down  
19 See 7 down  
21 Lament being small, quietly (4)  
23 Take part in another roadside row (6-4)  
25 Symphony still being performed (10)

## Bergkamp sets seal on masterful display

BY CONRAD LEACH

ARSENAL MANAGER Arsene Wenger pronounced last Friday that Chelsea would be Premier League champions this season. The Frenchman in all his wisdom may choose to revise his words after this supreme exhibition of passion, last ditch defending and one well-taken chance by Dennis Bergkamp.

Some will see this result as the Arsenal of old, but it was actually the kind of winning style which made Arsenal champions as recently as last season. Wenger's words afterwards confirmed that Arsenal are back on track.

"I don't want to give up on the Championship. I knew we had to win this game and it was our most important win of the season. If we had lost this the championship would have been over for us."

Chelsea were on an unbeaten streak of 21 Premier League games going back to last August but they had not been to Highbury and they had the misfortune to come up against an Arsenal defence that has now not conceded a goal in five league games and Glenn Hoddle permitting they were going to be damned if they were going to let one in this afternoon.

On a day where chances were worth their weight in championship gold Bergkamp took his and with it Arsenal only two points behind leaders Manchester United. With 32 minutes

they lost in the Worthington Cup and it was Bergkamp who went close early on although his shot lacked power. Overmars then saw his shot from the edge of the box palmed away for a corner but shortly afterwards Bergkamp was to prove decisive in a competition Arsenal truly care about.

It was not until late in the first half that Chelsea genuinely threatened Seaman but Bjarne Goldhaek's cross went across the six-yard box with no one to tap it in.

The fact there was such slim pickings for Chelsea was due to Petit and Rami Garde operating so efficiently they closed down their opposite numbers in midfield and when Marcel Desailly replaced Duberry in defence there was even less of a threat to Arsenal.

But Roberto Di Matteo did eventually force Seaman into a save when the Italian's shot fizzed off his left foot but the England goalkeeper tipped the ball over. Then with Arsenal's offside trap sprung for once Petit summed up his effort in the game by sprinting back to deny Gianfranco Zola a certain goal.

As the game inevitably turned into a siege on Seaman's goal it was left to their trusty back line plus Petit to save the game, as the Gunners realised what all three points would do for their Champi-

onship challenge. As Wenger said later, he realised his players were intensely focused on this game ending his press conference with the ominous words, "I prefer the pressure at the top".

Though Bergkamp scored the winning goal, for the Dutchman himself the hero of the hour was the returning Seaman. "We have got a very good squad and we are lucky to have two good goalies," he said. "But of course David Seaman is very experienced and very good in these games. He gives you something extra."

Goal: Bergkamp (32) 1-0. Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman, Adams, Keown, Chan, Winterburn, Petit, Garde, Parlour, Overmars (Dalglish, 74); Bergkamp (Upson, 90), Anelka (Wes, 67), Sainsbury (see note); Ljungberg, Manninger (94).

Chelsea (4-4-2): De Gea, Petrescu, Duberry (Goldson, 40), Leese, Le Saux, Wiaz, Desailly, Di Matteo, Babayaro, Vulliamy, Zola (Forssell, 74). Substitutes not used: Terry, Martin, Nicholls (94). Referee: G. Poll (Ring). Bookings: Arsenal: Bergkamp, Keown, Chan, Petrescu, Leese, Goldson. Man of the match: Petit.

Attendance: 38,121. United go top, page 27

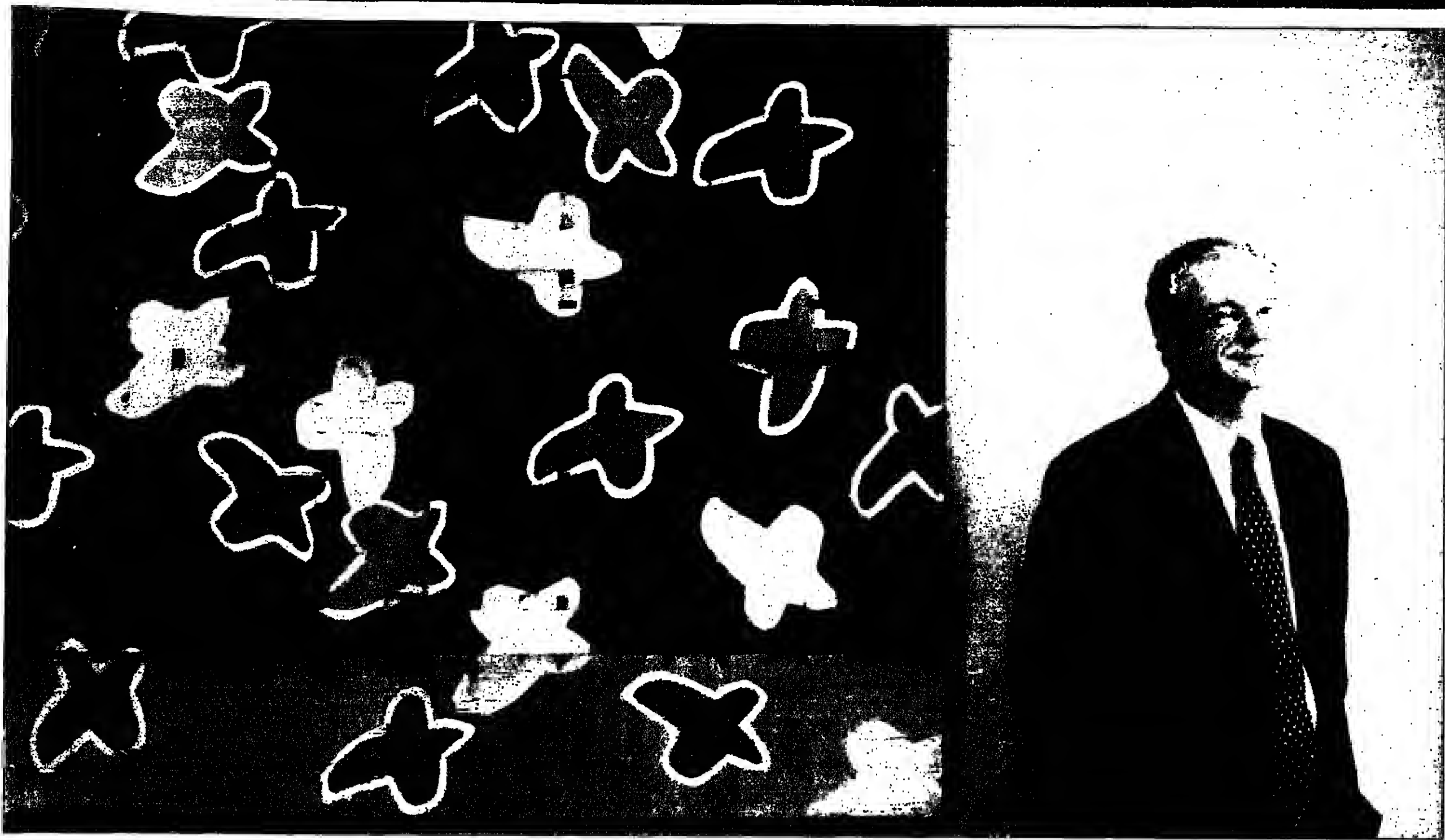


Dennis Bergkamp salutes Highbury after scoring



# MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



## Just plain old Mr Smith

He likes the odd meal out and costume dramas on telly. He's brilliantly unflashy. Yet he's a national treasure

Chris Smith, Minister for Culture, Media and Sport, is waiting for me in a roped-off, private corner at Stringfellow's. His PR girl, Cassandra De Nitwit, takes me over to him. "You've got 20 minutes, tops," she says. "Mr Smith is an extremely busy and very busy man." Mr Smith is here to plug his latest fitness video: *Stop Pottering Around Museums, You Lazy Lot!* He is wearing a leotard, sequinned tights and poodle boots. He confirms he has been very busy indeed. He has not, he says, even had time to see the Monet exhibition yet, and thinks he might not bother now. "If you've got the tea towel, then what's the point of queuing for six hours? I ask you! Shall we order a couple of Baby-chams...?" Actually, I've just made all this up. Chris Smith is not quite this colourful. It's just: I wish.

We actually meet at his office at the Department

of Culture, Media and Sport. His aide is very un-Cassandra-like, being a big chap in a grey suit with a tape recorder than won't work. "Oh, good," I say. "This means I can just go away and make it all up!" He and Mr Smith laugh which, as it turns out, was a rather foolish thing to do. There is a Howard Hodgkin splash of colour on one wall, a Craigie Aitchison on the other. I ask Mr Smith if money were no object, and he could buy any painting, what would he buy? "A late Rothko, a late Turner..." Am I to understand from this you're out a Che Guevara poster from Athena sort of man? He says: "Oh, I've had posters from Athena in my time, but not the Che Guevara one." Oh, so you had the other one? The saucy tennis one? "No!"

He is quite a slight man, with short, sheep-coloured, woolly hair and a face which, in profile, is slightly duck-like. He looks like some wise and rather sweet farmyard animal. He is wearing a navy suit and black shoes that are possibly Clarks and a modest blue tie. "I am bad at choosing clothes. My partner buys all my ties for me, for which I am very grateful. It means I am better dressed than I otherwise would be." I ask if he's ever extravagant. "I try not to be. Occasionally we will go out for an expensive meal, but only if we're treating ourselves." Which restaurant do you go to? "Oh, various."

He is quite shy, generally, I think, especially of interviewers. He once gave a toe-curling interview in which he allowed himself to be drawn into assessing the sexual allure of his fellow Cabinet Ministers. He said he thought Tony Blair was the handsomest, followed by Jack Cunningham. I say he's mad. It has to be John Prescott. What a sex god! He says: "Yes, I expect he is something of a god." Actually, he doesn't. He says: "I don't think I'm going to answer that!"

Chris Smith is, very much, a Chris Smith. He



THE  
DEBORAH ROSS  
INTERVIEW

could never be a Sebastian Pontefoolle. He is brilliantly unflashy. OK, the odd meal out. But he would never want to borrow lots of money just to live in a fancy house in Notting Hill. I wonder if he was surprised by the Mandelson business. "I was. It was something I hadn't known about until I read it in the newspapers. Although I do think the problem was very much the appearance of a conflict of interest, rather than any real conflict of interest. Still, I respect his very rapid decision to step down."

Certainly, he does not appear to have any dark or complex recesses. Mr Smith, do you believe in outing? "I have always said outing is wrong. It's an entirely personal decision. In fact, so much more is achieved by one person deciding to say something voluntarily about themselves, rather than 100 people being dragged into the public eye." Will you regret never having children? "It's never been an issue, so it's a hypothetical question." He lives in Islington, London (he is MP for Islington South) with his boyfriend of 12 years, Dorian Jabri, director of the Teacher Training Agency. They have a dog, a Tibetan

Terrier called Tian - "which means 'heaven' in Chinese". The dog is no child substitute although he is, of course, "the cutest dog in the world!"

On the whole, he seems to be an agreeable man doing what must be quite an agreeable job. Invites, invites, invites. Drinks with Liam and Toos at No 10. Talking of which, isn't this Cool Britannia government getting a little carried away with entertainment at the expense of what can properly be called culture? He says no, absolutely not. The Prime Minister did invite Oasis to No 10, but a few days later was at the Cottesloe Theatre being deeply moved by Richard Eyre's production of *King Lear*.

He does have real issues to deal with, of course. Telly, for example. Do we really need digital, and yet more channels? "It does have the potential to be a good thing. And we have the BBC. Unless you have that solid core at the heart of the broadcasting system, then you are in danger of seeing everything being dumbed down across the range." But we don't have a sufficient number of good programmes to even fill the existing channels' schedules. I mean, have you ever found anything you've wanted to watch on Channel 5 yet? "I must confess I am not an avid Channel 5 viewer." What do you like on telly? "News, current affairs. I love the costume dramas, and I also love programmes about mountaineering and climbing and hillwalking, because those are my passions." So you don't rush back for *Gladiators* of a Saturday teatime, then? "I do not normally do so, oo." So you couldn't compare it with *Robot Wars*? "I could not." Mr Smith, are you sure this is the right job for you?

He thinks it is. He did environment and social security in opposition, but much prefers this brief. "In terms of sheer enjoyment, this is far and away the best," he exclaims in his Footersish way. The soo of a civil servant, he was brought up in Watford and

Scotland. He was the sort of boy who, yes, was a boy scout and a fan of Arthur Ransome. "Although, very early on, it was those Ladybird books about British history, Roman Britain or the life of Queen Elizabeth I. I can still remember the picture of Queen Elizabeth I addressing the troops, and Raleigh laying down his cloak. And then it was Arthur Ransome. I loved *Swallows and Amazons*."

He went to Cambridge, where he got his double first in English - "if I had to nominate the best novel ever, it would be *Middlemarch*" - and became active in Labour politics. He is certainly tough.

He went into Parliament via the gruelling route of left-wing Labour politics in Islington. He was chief whip on Islington Council during that period when keeping the comrades in order was a superhuman job. He has already made something of a mark in his present job. He has played a part in winning tax breaks for film-makers. But still, some say he lacks the killer instinct to really make a difference. Mr Smith, do you mind being called nice? "I never know whether to be flattered or angry about that." Oh, go on, be angry. "Well, if it means that I am equable towards my colleagues and the world in general, then I'm guilty." Oh. "But if it means I can't be determinedly focused about achieving the best possible outcomes, then no. NO!" I think I might have just received the sharp side of his tongue.

Overall, Chris Smith is something of a national treasure, I think. After all, it's not often that, in government, you encounter good people trying to do decent things. Still, the poodle boots would have added something. And the Babychams might have jolled things along rather. Next time, perhaps? "Absolutely," cries Mr Smith. "I'll book Stringfellow's right now!" He shouldn't have laughed at me, like I said.

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## Nuclear clean-up

Sir: It is a travesty of the truth to suggest that the German government's decision to delay cancelling reprocessing contracts will save "thousands of jobs" at Sellafield (report, 27 January).

German utilities have contracts with Sellafield's Thorp reprocessing plant for around 1,900 tonnes of spent fuel, which represents around 18 per cent of the Thorp order book (by weight). In the unlikely event that the plant were able to get back on schedule following recent breakdowns, Thorp would still only have enough work to keep it going until 2009 unless it wins new orders. In the meantime, the plant continues to increase the international stockpile of weapons-useable plutonium.

On the other hand, BNFL is a major world player in dry storage technology and decommissioning and radioactive waste clean-up work. If BNFL approaches the forthcoming talks with Germany in a constructive and conciliatory manner, it can expect to be able to capitalise on these areas of expertise and gain new work from the German utilities.

It is clear that reprocessing is a dying industry. BNFL should seize the opportunity presented by the German decision to get out of reprocessing, and diversify into nuclear services such as waste storage, clean-up and decommissioning which its customers actually want. It makes neither business nor environmental sense to insist that customers continue to separate plutonium against their wishes.

PETE ROCHE  
Campaigner  
Greenpeace UK  
London N1

Sir: The blackmailing of the German government by BNFL's threat to send back untreated nuclear waste and thereby provoke civil unrest as well as causing insurmountable storage difficulties, shows how far the nuclear industry is prepared to go.

Whilst respecting international commercial law, the Green Party argues against attempts to bind future governments (whether British or German) to political decisions on the grounds of spuriously commercial commitments. The Green solution is to store the existing waste above ground at its present location (at least for the time being), not to exacerbate the dangers by transporting the material back through England to Europe. Of course a hefty fee for safe storage would be agreed.

BNFL's threat amounts to a challenge for protest in this country too. It is a credit to the nuclear industries' PR skills and political clout that there is as yet so little public alarm in this country.

A FRANCIS  
Executive Chair  
Dr C BUSBY  
Technology Spokesman  
H CHARLTON  
Legal Adviser  
The Green Party  
London N19

## Public sector jobs

Sir: David Aaronovitch's article on public sector workers made some well balanced comments ("What's the point of spending a fortune on nurses and teachers?", 28 January).

The pay in both nursing and teaching has been distorted by the callings on the various pay scales which mean that, after their mid-forties, nurses and teachers can only earn good salaries (ie comparable with non-public services activity) by moving into "management". We thus lose some of those with the best practical skills.

David Blunkett's proposals for super-teacher scales are fine, except that they will be awarded to bright young things. The older generation of teachers will be ignored and will retire on pensions which do scant justice to their contribution.



Independent Eye No 1: London flower girls with their baskets on a traffic island in 1907. This picture begins our series of images from 'An Independent Eye: A Century of Photographs' all drawn from the Hulton Getty Picture Collection and 'The Independent'

Hulton Getty

The public service pension scheme is one respect in which all careers in the public service could be made much more attractive, at little immediate cost. The scheme should cease to base pensions on "number of years' service divided by eight" (which implies the need to work for over 53 years to draw a maximum two thirds of final salary as pension), abandoned long ago by most good employers. It should be upgraded to 70ths immediately, and perhaps 60ths over the longer term. This would greatly reduce the pressure for catching up rises.

Dr A M HULME  
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands

Sir: David Aaronovitch ("What's the point of spending a fortune on nurses and teachers?", 28 January) confuses several issues, lumping all public sector workers together is ridiculous because they are very different. He praises nurses in intensive care and then goes on to say that he was shocked by the demeanour and attitude of ancillary workers.

The whole issue of pay is about ensuring a decent salary for professional nurses who are properly trained and qualified. By all means ancillary workers, or for that matter teachers or other public sector employees, are important - but that is not the issue. You cannot simply lump them together.

The reason for paying a liveable wage to qualified nurses, many of whom are qualified to at least Dip HE level, if not to Honours or Masters degree level, is to either stop them leaving or to bring them back into the NHS. The deceptive ploy by the government of paying a nurse of the lowest grade 11% will make little difference, because those nurses don't have the expertise required to make a difference to health care.

The NHS cannot function without enough experienced nurses, yet to imagine that nurses will stay in the NHS when they are paid insufficiently is to live in cloud cuckoo land. The basic assumption that nurses are only worth being

paid a decent wage if they work in high visibility areas such as intensive care or casualty is damaging to everyone, nurses and patients alike. What about the average nurse who works hard on a medical-surgical ward, on in outpatients? Their work is vital to patients, and they deserve as much of a pay rise as a newly qualified or a so-called "super" nurse.

Talk of local authorities being dominated by the Socialist Working Party is irrelevant and distracts from issues about nurses, their pay and the public perception of their work. If indeed middle-ranking nurses were paid a living salary, I would personally be able to go back to the NHS full-time. As it is, I was obliged to leave NHS employment last year despite being well-qualified, motivated, idealistic, hard-working and caring. I worked in a major London teaching hospital, which I found rewarding, but because I have to meet my rent and other bills I moved to the private sector, where the pay is marginally better.

I very much resent having been forced to leave for financial reasons, but I am even more angry at the current rhetoric surrounding these issues. Having spoken to many other nurses at my level of experience, I know that my feelings are widely shared.

Sir: If, as Dr John Nicholson claims (letter, 27 January), all that matters in the age of consent debate is that the age should be equal for all, why are supporters of the Government's Bill invariably hostile to any suggestion of equalisation upwards at 18 or even at 17 as in Northern Ireland?

The main reason for the 70 per cent public opposition to the Bill is not anti-gay prejudice, but the perfectly reasonable view that 16-year-olds, whether boys or girls, are simply not mature enough to

The government and the general public will eventually have to realise that you reap what you sow, and that you get what you pay for. Ultimately it is their choice. SARA HEDDY  
London SE17

## Education in crisis

Sir: In response to the serious crisis that has engulfed education for the past 20 years New Labour has presented its Green Paper. We note that the consultation process is carefully controlled in order to minimise criticism. (Our local consultation takes place in Shipley, a neighbouring county). Participants are selected via LEAs, thus limiting, not broadening a vital debate.

This is not a document written by educationalists, teachers, or parents with any commitment to childhood development within a gentle and stress-free atmosphere.

There is a terrible crisis within education. It is a crisis borne out of government experiments, bureaucracy, vindictiveness against workers in education, and chronic underfunding at the behest of the so-called market economy.

The Green Paper is yet another experiment in madness. The prescription in this case seems to

be to increase the pressure on both pupils and teachers by offering some sort of super nova status to a few suits, more unnecessary work for the many and, probably the most reprehensible idea concocted for schools in the recent past, the introduction of performance-related pay. All this in the name of an ill-defined, abstract concept called "Standards." No wonder there is bitterness by those of us in education who understand only too clearly the divisiveness this measure will bring.

We are looking for changes in education. Changes that do not include chronic underfunding, league tables, delegated funding, target setting, testing, Ofstedding, a rigid curriculum and all the other barriers that successive governments have used to turn schools into pressure cookers, not places of learning and discovery.

Governments have failed our children, and New Labour was not given a mandate to continue with old, failed measures, wrapped in green paper.

BARRY CONWAY  
Bolton, Greater Manchester

## No 'collapse'

Sir: Whilst I hope to be able to comment, in due course, and following publication of the

Stephen Lawrence Inquiry Report, on the issues arising from this tragic case, might I take this opportunity to correct a minor, but irritating, error in the reporting of my evidence to the Inquiry.

The transcript of my evidence apparently records me as saying that, on learning of the intention to launch the private prosecution, "I collapsed in the street". In fact my collapse occurred some two weeks earlier due to my medical condition and had nothing to do with the murder. The relevance of this was that, as accurately reported, I was ill at home when I heard of the private prosecution and contacted Imran Khan in an effort to stop or delay the private prosecution.

As this "collapse" is in danger of assuming legendary proportions, I would be grateful if the record could be put straight.

HOWARD YOUNGERWOOD  
Former Assistant Chief Crown Prosecutor  
London NW4

## Tax burden

Sir: Looking after one's own children is a reasonable way of life, approximately half of parents of under fives do it.

They already suffer financially. They lose a wage, a tax allowance and pension entitlement. Their tax bills can be £1000 more than dual-earners on the same joint income. At low-income levels they are ignored by Family Credit and the new Working Family Tax Credit.

This is Social engineering on a grand scale. Until there is a reverse in these policies the decline in family life will continue.

Other countries, eg Germany, France & Finland split incomes for tax purposes. In addition they give allowances to parents who then decide whether they wish to use it themselves or pay for childcare.

FRANCES SAVIN  
Full Time Mothers  
London E14

## Fox shelters

Sir: There is a great deal of misunderstanding and misinformation about the purpose and use of artificial earths (report, 29.1.99). Animal rights groups often claim, falsely, that by using them hunts are "breeding foxes." You cannot breed animals that are living in the wild.

The majority of artificial earths were built many years ago. Their purpose is to make it simpler to find the existing fox population in places where they can be hunted safely and successfully. Where there is an absence of natural cover, artificials provide dry shelter for a fox. This encourages them not to lie up in places where it is difficult or imprudent to find them on hunting days, such as in land drains, garden sheds or other outhouses on the edge of villages or towns. It also discourages them from lying up in and around farmyards, often close to vulnerable livestock.

In short these earths exist to help control the fox population, not the reverse as implied by the League Against Cruel Sports. PAUL LATHAM,  
Countryside Alliance,  
London SE11

## Loving husband

Sir: I disagree with Hilary G Chisholm's criticism of John Bayley's memoir of Iris Murdoch. I have read the memoir and found it to be moving and not at all intrusive (Letters, 28 January).

My mother is an Alzheimer's sufferer. Over a number of years we have watched her personality steadily disintegrate. One of the few "benefits" of this appalling disease is that as the layers of memory strip away we have got to know her as a person.

Reading John Bayley's tender account I am reminded of my own experiences watching the "hidden" life of my mother appear. It is an experience common to many carers.

Mr Bayley's tone, the balance of past revelation with descriptions of the present, his caring for his wife, and the manner and pace at which his memoir unfolds, could have arisen from our own experience.

I cannot see that this is a "confessional biography" of the type Ms Chisholm is meaning. If she could have an understanding of this illness (she doesn't say whether she has), she may appreciate the brave choice Mr Bayley has made in deciding to care for his wife at home. For me his memoir - of a remarkable woman by a loving husband - is part of this devotion. MICHAEL BUTTERWORTH  
Manchester

## Organ transplants

Sir: The Royal College of Surgeons points to crisis in transplant surgery with organ donations falling and a decline in surgeons willing to work in the field.

With demand for organs for transplantation rising, but fewer people with Donor Cards dying in accidents or from strokes, surely now is the time for Parliament to debate the change from an opt in system to one in which we have to opt out.

As the father of a recent recipient of a liver transplant, whose life was saved by the generosity of another teenager's family, I have to ask why we still struggle on with an opt in donor system. In almost every other European country, your organs will be used for transplantation unless you have opted out of the system.

By relying on opting in, we are asking people faced with the death or imminent death of a loved one to give thought to organ donation. For us, even though each member of the family has always carried a Donor Card, it would not have been something we would necessarily thought of if the worst had come to pass. How much easier for the family if it was normal for organs to be taken for transplantation. PETER MINTON  
Whitchurch on Thames, Reading

## IN BRIEF

give proper consent to a sexual relationship. ALAN PAYELIN  
Chislehurst, Kent

Sir: May I congratulate you on ignoring the un-newsworthy nonsense concerning the appearance of Prince Charles in the company of Camilla Parker-Bowles outside the Ritz in London.

You have reconfirmed my faith in The Independent as a newspaper with the common

sense to distinguish between real news and irrelevant trivia. J G GREENWOOD  
Southdown, West Yorkshire

Sir: Why doesn't Charles marry Camilla in a civil ceremony and reject the succession to the position of Supreme Governor of the Church of England?

The Anglican Church could then be disestablished. This would be a suitable celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of Oliver Cromwell. JOHN D ANDERSON  
Baldon, West Yorkshire

## Why Albanians in glass houses shouldn't throw stones

REGULAR READERS will know that I am much addicted to collecting Albanian proverbs.

These are small repositories of hidden wisdom, so well hidden in most cases that the wisdom is not obvious at first sight. Or even later. Still, they sound as if they make a lot of sense, and that's the main thing. I sometimes get letters questioning their authenticity, often from Albanians who do not recognise the source material. It is a wise man who recognises common sense when he sees it. Which is, as it happens, an old Albanian proverb.

Here we go, then...

Before we die, our bones begin to ache and break. After we die, they remain intact for hundreds

of years. Either God has a sense of humour, or his hobby is archaeology.

Never act on a proverb which you don't understand.

Even a continent is an island.

A letter bringing tragic news and a letter containing a cheque for £1m travel at exactly the same speed.

At a funeral, all the people left happily alive dress mournfully in black, while the late lamented is joyfully wrapped in white.

When people talk about the ancient wisdom of Chinese medicine, ask them what is so wise about the gentle art of

chopping little bits off live tigers and bears to feed to patients.

In a country ruled by young people, the age of consent for sex will be a maximum age, not minimum.

When someone tells you that all things are relative, the only possible answer is: "Absolutely".

Of all the things that are hard to throw away, the hardest to throw away is a dustbin.

No matter how long a person lives, he always pegs out just too early to catch his obituary.

In the old days, family mottoes were always written in Latin so that everyone could understand



MILES KINGSTON  
No matter how long a person lives, he always pegs out just too early to catch his obituary

them, no matter what his own language was. Nowadays nobody can understand them. Isn't the

spread of education a wonderful thing?

Nobody ever made a fortune by selling children models of UN peace-keeping soldiers.

When a tattooed person dies, who owns the tattoo?

Man has always dreamt of harnessing the power of lightning. So why has nobody ever dreamt of harnessing the power of thunder?

No politician ever gives his speechwriter a knighthood.

If books do not sell, they do not get reprinted. Therefore all unsuccessful books are first editions. It follows, therefore,

that all unsuccessful books are collector's items. This is an idea worth pursuing. In fact, someone once wrote a book about it. But nobody bought it.

The best way to unsettle a pedant is to open a parenthesis "(" and then never close it.

The presence of so many football goal posts standing alone in so many fields proves that the public WILL accept modern abstract art - so long as it is functional.

Whoever named the swimming style known as the butterfly stroke had probably never seen a butterfly trying to swim.

Three things to avoid: shirts

marked SLIMFIT, sports sections of newspapers and books on diets by famous actresses.

There are three stages in the love of sports. 1. Wanting your own side to win. 2. Wanting the better side to win. 3. Wanting both sides to play well.

Professor Einstein may have been a very clever man, but he could also have been a very rich man if he had gone beyond relativity and thought of the concept of time-sharing...

Nobody can recognise himself from behind.

Taken from 'The Great Book of Albanian Proverbs', 1999 edition.







## PANDORA

THE EPIC battle between Rhodri Morgan and Secretary of State for Wales Alun Michael, to be Labour's candidate to lead the Welsh Assembly has taken another dramatic twist. A telephone poll conducted by the *Western Mail* and its sister paper *Wales on Sunday* gave backbench rebel Morgan 5,518 votes against Michael's total of 589. Welsh minister and Alun Michael ally Peter Hain claims that Conservatives and Nationalists helped turn the poll against Michael. However Morgan has consistently enjoyed the support of the vast majority of constituency executives in Wales. Alun Michael has been drafting in senior ministers to bolster his campaign. It would come as no surprise to Pandora if the Welsh see a lot more of Tony Blair before the results are finally declared on February 20.

A TOWN called Tesco? Well why not, if one Tesco executive is to be believed. Marketing Director Tim Mason recently told a private meeting: "We are the community." Pandora called Tesco to find out what was behind Mason's global vision. "That's the reality, we want our stores to be number one... we're following trends rather than leaving them," said a Tesco spokesman. Mason is no stranger to controversy. In 1995 "Trousers" Tim left his wife and four children for Tesco executive Fiona Archer, daughter of Sir Ian MacLaurin, the then Tesco Chairman. So some irony, then, when defending Tesco as the new society the spokesman told Pandora: "Some of our customers have met their future wife in the store."

CRUSADING LIB Dem MP Norman Baker has once again given the Government a run for their money. Stormin' Norman, as he is known in political circles, recently shunned the car in favour of letting the train take the strain. Before returning from an environmental audit fact-finding trip to Germany and Denmark, Baker obtained permission to use public transport to return to Westminster, not wishing to use one of the taxis laid on at Heathrow. On the return journey Baker arrived at the House of Commons before any of the other MPs. Since the trip Baker, in answer to yet another PQ holding the Government to account, received the following invaluable advice from Transport Minister Glenda Jackson: "Heathrow and Gatwick both already have excellent public transport

connections to Westminster. Doesn't he just know it."

PANDORA HAS been enjoying a spot of skiing and hobnobbing at the World Economic Forum in Davos. This year's list of participants includes, as always, a short biography and a small photograph. Naturally enough, Al Gore was featured, with his correct title, Vice President of the United States, and with the right photograph. But, strangely enough, his bio, was confused with none other than Dan "potato" Quayle.

ROBIN COOK (below) admits to being embarrassed by the Foreign Office's post World War One mural which depicts Britannia triumphant whilst France and America look on admiringly. The reason, in his own words, is that "the three children clinging for protection at her feet are supposed to Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia". But it is the Foreign Secretary's shaky grasp of 20th century history that is truly embarrassing. He's right about Serbia and Montenegro, but for Croatia, read Belgium. Croatia was in fact part of the Austro-Hungarian empire and hence at war with Britain. You can bet that Cook's German counterpart would not have made that mistake.

THE LONG running quiz show *Family Fortunes* is one of Pandora's favourites. The families are unlike any you might have met and the answers are simply bizarre. Sample Question: name a famous Arthur? Answer: Shakespeare. Host Les Dennis, who followed Max Bygraves and Bob Monkhouse into the coveted slot admits that "A lot of answers are priceless. I think my favourite was when I asked a girl from Liverpool to name something you opened other than a door. She said: "Your bowels, Les". Then I asked her sister and she said: "Your legs." But what really puzzles Pandora is the hundred people who have apparently been surveyed. Who? Where? When? Pandora knows no one who has ever been surveyed but would be delighted to hear from you if you have.

You can contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)



## Anti-Semitism in the playground

HAVE YOU ever watched an episode of *South Park*? Let me tell you about it.

It is on Channel 4 and Sky. It has a cute and innocent facade and can, at first, seem quite charming. The images are basic and the characters walk sideways. Cute huh? Well, what about this line: "Kyle's mum's a fucking Jew."

This was delivered by the obnoxious character called Cartman in front of millions of admiring young children who have now decided it is cool to take the piss out of Jews. Of course, this isn't the only thing about the show that is racist. My nine-year-old sister goes to school with a *South Park* bag. She tells me how all her little friends watch *South Park* and love it. She has listened to children in the playground singing the "I'm a lonely Jew at Christmas" song from the *South Park* Christmas special. *South Park* has an ongoing anti-Semitic theme, which is justified by one of its creators, Matt Stone, on the grounds that he is Jewish himself.

Let me set the record straight. I've little time for political correctness. I don't call short people



DAVID MARGOLIS  
I have suddenly found myself surrounded by 'acceptable racism', thanks to a cartoon

vertically challenged. I call them short arses. I love *South Park*. It's great that a programme like that takes risks. However, I'm a 17-year-old non-orthodox Jewish student living in West London - and I have suddenly found myself surrounded by "acceptable racism" that I believe is due to *South Park*.

I noticed this first a few months ago when I was at my best friend

Stephen's house. I was sitting in his living room before we went out to a party. Stephen went into the kitchen to make himself a quick sandwich. His 13-year-old brother, James, was in there, also about to go out. James needed to borrow some money from Stephen so asked him for £10. Stephen only offered to lend him five. Then came the shock. James said, as if it were no big deal: "Stephen, don't be a Jew." He did not seem to care that a Jew was sitting in the room next to him. I started feeling sick with despair that an innocent child, thinking it to be acceptable, even with a Jew in his presence was now using the stinky Jew archetype, an image Nazis and racist Jew haters use. What the hell was going on? I didn't know about *South Park* at the time.

At the party, people were routinely using the term "Jew" as an insult. One guy I knew was a proud Scot, who was extremely defensive of people who attacked his heritage. And there he was, calling people tight Jews at the top of his voice - and no one seemed particularly bothered. I, however, felt hurt and genuinely insulted.

This is a similar situation to the controversy over *Goodness Gracious Me*, the comedy series based on Asians made by Asians. I remember sitting in a lesson with my Indian friend, Daniel, who was upset by the show as people were using it as an excuse to be racist. I remember telling him to lighten up and that it was only a bit of affectionate fun. Now however, seeing the same thing happen to my own kind, I can sympathise with how he was feeling.

I understand and enjoy ironic use of racism, but it requires a sophisticated audience which knows racism is wrong. The problem is that the *South Park* audience mainly consists of young children. This is a comedy version of alcopops.

So, is *South Park*'s humour acceptable considering one of its creators is Jewish? Yes. What is not acceptable is its target audience. There has been no effort to protect children from this show.

Angela Farrugia, joint managing director of the company which licences the *South Park* merchandise says that "we have been very careful to target all our products and

ads at the 18-plus market". This, as anybody with an IQ above Cartman's would understand, is a little disingenuous. The merchandise is available in every shop, in every high street, to every age group.

Believe it or not, I don't believe in censorship. What I believe in is parental responsibility. Children aren't shown by their parents that it is OK to laugh at *South Park* jokes because they are actually making fun of the scum in society who genuinely are racist. Instead, children think it is OK to be racist and that nobody will be offended.

There is an episode of the show in which the children watch a television show that contains rude words and celebrates farting. All the *South Park* parents become angry and catapult themselves at the show's head office building in protest, becoming bloody splats on the wall. It makes the point that parents tend to see television as the "sole babysitter" of their children and take no responsibility. I would agree. Let's hang on to *South Park* but if we're going to sell it to the kids, the least we can do is teach the kids how to handle the humour.

## The impeachment trial that ended in judicial murder



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH  
The defendant was denounced as a tyrant, traitor, murderer and public enemy

REMEMBER THE momentous three weeks which began one January day when, in Westminster Hall, London, the Sergeant-at-Arms proclaimed that the House of Commons would transform itself into a "high court of justice" for the trying and judging of the Head of State. The first problem was to decide who should preside over such a trial.

The Lord Chief Justice refused to have anything to do with the idea; nor would his senior colleagues. Even eminent lawyers friendly to the Government advised moderation. In the end a junior judge who, two years earlier had publicly described the Head of State as "worse than Nero" was appointed.

The jury was in effect 135 members of the House of Commons, called commissioners for the purpose. Members of the House of Lords were excluded because of their opposition. It was early decided that only the presiding judge and counsel would be allowed to speak. The commissioners would have to stay silent. They could pass such questions as they might have to the presiding officer.

By mid-month, the authorities had become thoroughly alarmed about security. Everybody remembered serious incidents not many years before. They decided that the Head of State would be accommodated close to Westminster Hall and would be guarded by 200 soldiers; a further 1,000 men would be constantly on duty. All entrances would be under military control.

The most difficult problem, however, was to draw up the charges. They were finally settled on the day before the trial began. It was claimed that the Head of State had attempted to "erect and uphold in himself an unlimited and tyrannical power, to rule according to his will and to overthrow the rights and lib-

erties of the people". Many alleged examples were given and the defendant was finally denounced as "a tyrant, traitor, murderer and a public and implacable enemy".

No doubt the framers would have liked to have included charges relating to religious policy, but they forbore to do so.

On the morning before the trial was due to commence in the afternoon of 30 January, the commissioners were so nervous that they held a private session to rehearse "forms and methods". What, they wondered, would be the demeanour of the Head of State? Would he be insolent or contemptuous?

More seriously, if the court was asked by what authority it was established, what answer should be given? No wonder the presiding judge asked that two lawyers should be seated close to him to provide advice. Then, when the trial finally began, it was found that only 68 of the 135 commissioners were present. Absence was a form of mute protest.

There was trouble immediately. When a roll call of the commissioners was taken, there was an interruption from the public gallery. The wife of the first person named called out that her husband had more sense than to be present. Then the Head of State was brought in. Nothing in his expression showed any interest in what was going on, nor any recognition of those present.

But when he was required to answer the charges, he asked the question the commissioners had feared. "By what power am I called... let me know by what lawful authority I am seated here, and I shall not be unwilling to answer".

The judge then gave the reply which had been worked out in the morning, saying "in the name of the people". The Head of State responded that he saw no presence from the House of Lords, which would be necessary to form a Parliament. The exchanges continued until the presiding judge, brow-beaten but, nonetheless, truculent, adjourned the court. As the prisoner was escorted away, he saw a weapon on the Clerk's table. "I do not fear that," he remarked.

The next day, both the prosecution and the defendant, in their different ways, raised the stakes. Although contrary to the principles of English law, counsel for the prosecution stated that a refusal to answer the charges would be taken as an admission of guilt. In reply the Head of State widened the argument he had previously deployed. If he could be so treated, all citizens would be likewise at risk from the exercise of arbitrary power.

Overnight it was decided that the Head of State be given one more chance to answer the charges. But at the next day's sitting the result was the same and the court was adjourned once more. The Commis-



The last head of state to face trial by Parliament Hulton Getty

sioners decided to call and examine witnesses but deferred until the next day consideration of exactly how this was to be done. In the end 30 witnesses were examined privately on 24 January.

Contrary to accepted legal procedure, the defendant was given no opportunity either to hear or to cross-examine people who testified against him.

By now the trial of the Head of State had got as far as it could with even a pretence of legality. The Commissioners proceeded to debate what sentence should be passed - whether removing the Head of State from office would be sufficient or whether the death sentence was required. Nonetheless a committee was formed to prepare a written draft of the sentence with a blank for the "manner of death".

The next sitting of the court, on 27 January, saw a repetition of the arguments of the previous sittings. The Head of State used his chance to speak before sentence was passed to maintain his assertion that the trial had no legal authority. Finally

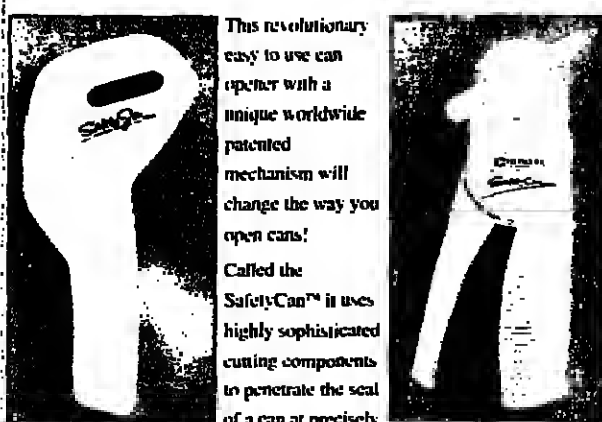
the judge hurried out the sentence: for engaging in treasons and crimes, for behaving as tyrant, traitor, murderer and public enemy "to the good people of this nation" - death.

This was the trial of Charles I. On 30 January 1649, the King was taken to the Banqueting House in Whitehall, designed and built during his reign, and which survives to this day with its ceiling painted by Rubens. The scaffold had been erected level with the first floor windows. When he stepped onto the planks, Charles gave his Garter insignia to Bishop Juxon, saying "remember". What did he mean by this injunction? Juxon took it as a reminder that he should give the medal to the King's heir, the future Charles II. I take it to mean - remember, this is judicial murder, the most heinous crime that states can commit.

I am indebted to two books: *The Trial of Charles I* by C.V. Wedgwood, published by Collins, 1964, and *The Last Days of Charles I* by Graham Edwards, published by Sutton Publishing, 1999, price £19.99

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## Christianity and politics do mix

NEW LABOUR has made ethics a central feature of its approach to government. It has sought to provide an "ethical foreign policy". It is also well known that a number of influential members of the Cabinet have long been members of the Christian Socialist Movement, including the Prime Minister himself.

At the same time, perhaps in reaction to this, William Hague recently made a major speech to the Conservative Christian Fellowship where he initiated a project to listen to British churches and where he stressed the ethical tradition of the Conservative Party, drawing on the role models of people such as William Wilberforce, Lord Shaftesbury and Iain Macleod.

In an allegedly secular society this is in one way rather surprising. Yet every political philosophy is rooted in a set of values; and those values will express, consciously or unconsciously, a particular understanding of what it is to be a human being in society.

My concern is whether a Christian understanding of what it is to be a human being

in society points inexorably to any particular political philosophy or party. Or, to put it in terms of where we are now, whether a Christian perspective on existence has anything distinctive to say about what is now happening at Westminster.

I am, of course, well aware of the hazards of this exercise. Almost every political philosophy, from extreme egalitarianism on the one hand to absolute monarchy on the other, has in its time been claimed in the name of Christianity. It was a priest, John Ball, who led the Peasants' Revolt with the refrain: "When Adam delved and Eve span, who was then the gentleman?"

And right-wing rulers such as General Pinochet, who have looked to the Church for support, are numerous. But, however foolish the attempt might seem and so fraught with the possibility of self-deception, it has to be attempted.

I hope to indicate what I believe does constitute a distinctively Christian approach to the political realm, but first I want to look at the stated policy of New Labour in its own terms.

As we all know, New Labour has abandoned the most wide-



## PODIUM

RICHARD HARRIES  
From a talk by the Bishop of Oxford to the Westminster Ethical Forum at St Matthew's Church, Westminster

spread concept of socialism - the public ownership of the means of production and exchange. Furthermore, it has accepted that, at least for the first two years in office, there will be no rise in income tax.

In fact the Government has used a wide variety of alternatives to income tax to raise public finance. But the basic idea of social democracy - the redistribution of wealth through progressive income tax - is not

part of the present government's policy. So what is left?

In the Queen's Speech last year one concept more than any other dominates - modernisation. But modernisation, to make any sense at all, is a means to an end. The concept of modernisation by itself is a vacuous notion.

The Queen's Speech also makes it clear that the present government is pro-business.

I am not anti-business, or anti-market. Far from it. But the point I would want to repeat, in relation to both New Labour and William Hague's evolving Christian philosophy, is this: the market, as we have it, as it is operated, cannot be regarded simply as a neutral mechanism that will equally benefit everyone who plays according to its rules.

It may be true that a market, in its earliest, simplest expression, operates on a level playing field.

A peasant takes eggs to market and buys some leather shoes. But the market as it in fact operates is dominated by capital, that is, human beings and institutions with money. It is operated by human beings who, and I say this without any

sense of moral judgement, pursue their own interests.

Moreover, although these human beings are certainly capable of altruism, when it comes to industrial or commercial life we have the same paradox as we have in patriotism: individual selfishness can be transmuted into corporate selfishness.

There are losers - not only companies that go bust because they lose their share of the market, but whole groups of people, even societies, that fail to share in the increasing prosperity.

It has recently been argued that the present government's policy is best seen in terms of Catholic social teaching, particularly the concept of the common good. It is not an exclusively Catholic term. Anglicans pray at the Eucharist for the common good.

A Labour government may give up a policy of common ownership; it may downplay a policy of wealth distribution; it cannot, however, give up asking the question about the common good from the standpoint of those least able to stand up for themselves.



# A brief encounter with Noel



**PHILIP HOARE**  
*Coward's approach connects to a more recent, and outré gay media figure: that of Boy George*

ONE HUNDRED years ago, this century's most quintessential Englishman was born. Noel Coward's centenary is celebrated this year in a veritable flood of revivals of his plays and screenings of his films, none more affecting than the classic *Brief Encounter*. It's a tale of a would-be extra-marital affair in a mythic Forties suburbia still strikes a chord – perhaps because it evokes a time when emotions were still under control in an globally unwarmed climate. At one point in the film, Laura declares, "Do you know, I believe we should all behave quite differently if we lived in a warm, sunny climate all the time. We shouldn't be so withdrawn and shy and difficult."

In our fierce, overheated world of self-revelation and exposure, where you can read of the intimate lives of not only the rich and famous, but the obscure and infamous, Coward's attitude seems increasingly enigmatic. His is a world of our parents' generation, a world rapidly disappearing as we leave the century behind, a world of different values, and different voices.

In my turn-of-the-century *Chambers Dictionary* – published in the year of Coward's birth, one of the definitions of reticence is "concealment by silence". The last completed play Coward wrote was *A Song at Twilight*, revived this month by Sheridan Morley at the King's Head Theatre. It is an intricately woven tribute to Coward's own reticence, and that of Somerset Maugham, on whom the play's irascible main character is based.

Hugo Latimer, a married, aged writer, is suddenly faced with evidence of his homosexuality produced by a former (female) lover. "Homosexual tendencies in the past," she retorts. "You're queer as a coot and you have been all your life." Here, towards the very end of his own life, Coward appeared to be questioning his own emotional reticence at a time when homosexuality was about to be decriminalised, and when the "plays with a message" Coward hated (if invited to attend one such, he'd quote an actress friend who declared, "Then I shall dress") of Osborne, Pinter et al challenged that very reticence.

For Coward, sex and sexuality was always a matter of good taste.



None of Coward's work is more affecting than 'Brief Encounter' which starred Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard

Picturegoer

When a New York friend took him to the openly gay resort of Fire Island in the mid-Sixties, he was appalled: "I have always been of the opinion that a large group of queer men was unattractive. On Fire Island, it is more than unattractive, it's macabre, sinister, irritating and somehow tragic." How much more shocked would The Master have been to walk down present-day Old Compton St, or Manchester's gay village. For Coward, the point was one of exhibition. "Taste may be vulgar," he declared, "But it must never be embarrassing. There is no need to embarrass anyone."

Coward's approach finds echoes with a more recent, and apparently outré gay media figure: Boy George. Coward, in his autobiographical play of 1939, *Present Laughter* (currently revived at the West Yorkshire Playhouse with Ian McKellen in the central role), announced, a propos of sex: "To me the whole business is vastly over-rated. I enjoy it for what it's worth and fully intend to go on doing so for as long as anybody's interested and when the time comes that they're not I shall be perfectly content to settle down with an apple and a good book!" Boy George – the Queen Mother of Pop – announced in the sexually overt 1980s that personally, he preferred "a nice cup of tea".

It was an almost shocking statement for the time, and is counterpointed by George Michael's recent appearance on the *Parkinson Show*, when he spoke openly of sex in public lavatories in a manner which seemed to mark a sea-change in the attitudes of Blairite Britain: the pop aristocrat as pop philosopher, personifying a new morality apparently condoned by a venerable, highly-respected representative of old TV (and, indeed, by his association with that other exemplar of overt emotionalism, the late Princess Diana).

In 1929, Coward wrote the defining lyric of his career: "If Love Were All". Sing by the heroine of *Bitter-Sweet*, it is nonetheless, in Coward's voice (and indeed in the Pet Shop Boys' recent cover of the song) a *cri de coeur*: "Life is a very rough and tumble/For a humble/Disenchant/One can betray one's troubles/never/Whatever/Occurs/Night after night/Have to look right/Whether you're well or ill."

Subtlety, discretion, restraint, finesse, charm, intelligence, good manners, talent and glamour still enchant me," he declared 30 years later, with the unequivocal of one who had been a Bright Young Thing, an exemplar of an era in which emotion was masked because so much emotion had been suffered – in the

Great War. Indeed the enormity of the war seemed to have had an effect on the British psyche: the soldiers who had to retreat behind taciturnity in the face of the horror of their experience.

Language, for Coward and his generation, was a defensive weapon – it is no coincidence that his speech was so clipped and quickfire that it sounded like a Gatling gun going off – while what was said was so often the opposite of what was meant. *Private Lives* is more emotional because of the self-denial of the characters' emotions (reticence, after all, is a come-on).

"Words, masses and masses of words!" says an exasperated Myra in *How to Succeed in Love*; "We none of us ever mean anything," confesses an equally exasperated Sorel in the same play. Or as Leo declares ("grandiloquently" as the stage directions demand) in *Design for Living*: "It's all a question of masks, really; brittle, painted masks. We all wear them as a form of protection; modern life forces us to. We must have some means of shielding our timid, shrinking souls from the glare of civilisation."

That mask, assumed with increasing regularity throughout Coward's life as the progression of the 20th century piled up upon him, would present a formidable

obstacle to would-be biographers. When I wrote my biography of Coward, five years of research produced little concrete evidence of his many affairs with men. As these were supposed to include names as diverse as James Cagney and the Duke of Kent (Prince George, the present Queen's uncle), this was frustrating, to say the least.

But perhaps it is as it should be. Coward's putative affair with Kent has never been proved; but the suspicion of it lends glamour to his image. Coward sobbing at the news of the Duke's accidental death in a wartime aircraft: the snide, but rather witty comment from a friend, "You know, Noel, you can never be the Dowager Duchess of Kent." Nowadays *The Sun* would have already exhausted the story before the body was laid to earth.

For his part, Coward himself danced lightly round the subject, never confirming, never denying. It may have lent a reflected glamour (not that Coward needed it, but he was one of the great 20th century snobs, and a social climber to rival even that egregious social-climber, Cecil Beaton), but it also bespoke a certain dignity. Contrast that with the exposes of the modern world of *Hello!* or the *News of the World*, or, indeed, of Margaret Cook and William Jefferson Clinton.

Writing in *The New York Times* on 10 January this year, journalist Ariel Swartley noted: "In our current culture of revelation, it strikes us as a shame that for all his logorrhea, Coward never quite came out and said what he meant, or who he was. That privacy cost him love, and the energy he invested in maintaining his front made him more calculating than he might have been to those less amusing than him, including people of other races and financial strata."

"And yet he broke through language barriers we've forgotten ever existed." In a classless country like America, that might be true; perhaps part of Coward's appeal – and that of his stiff upper lip – to his countrymen is that we haven't.

As the century slips away and uncertainty looms, Coward's reassuring, reticent world is increasingly appealing: a lost world in which one is not defined by one's sexual exploits or ability to externalise emotion; in which one could be oneself, without recourse to self-exposure. Yes, it was a time of certain prejudices which we are well rid of; but have we really gained that much?

Philip Hoare's biography of Noel Coward is published by Random House

## RIGHT OF REPLY

RODNEY BICKERSTAFFE



The general secretary of Unison responds to David Aaronovitch's article on public pay

DAVID AARONOVITCH'S pleasant conceit to use the monetary unit of a "nurse" (the equivalent of a nurse's average pay of £13,000 a year) to compare relative salaries, underscores the less than rational basis on which people are paid in our country. But I am sorry he finds it necessary to conclude that the answer is to pay selectively on the basis of individual performance.

Most jobs in the public services are done by women. They are badly paid. Their work is undervalued. After 30 years of equal pay caring, cleaning or catering are still seen as "women's work" and accordingly paid less. The problem is that the whole pay structure for large groups of health and education staff is too low. Unions and employers have devised imaginative and flexible agreements. But if salaries are too low, damaging skill shortages will appear once unemployment falls.

Productive efficiency requires the co-operation of workers in any sector – and low pay, poor conditions, harsh supervisory regimes and unemployment are a bad way of achieving it. But in providing public services, often to people who are ill, vulnerable or distressed, co-operative working and high-trust relationships are essential. One of the casualties of 20 years of contracting out has been the idea of the health "team" – for often it is the domestic on the ward who comforts a dying elderly woman, not just because the nurses have no time, but because she speaks her language and feels her pain. It was mean spirited of David to speak of such people as "too dim, too inflexible, too boshie to succeed".

The hard truth is that more money is needed to sustain civilised standards of service – and these depend irrevocably on the people who provide them.

# Missing the keyboard by a mile

WITH SHINE a success first in the cinema and recently on prime-time television, it's clear that there are now big bucks to be made from shooting the pianist. As with Gary Oldman's glowing Beethoven in *Immortal Beloved*, so with Geoffrey Rush's portrayal of David Helfgott – the preferred mode is swooning fades and reverential tracking-shots, as befits such epic musical heroes.

It was not ever thus. The keyboard gods of the 18th century were esteemed for their stillness. Clementi made his pupils practise with a coin on the back of their hands; Mozart, who prided himself on making his music "flow like oil", believed the fingers should always be in close contact with the keys. Machines were invented to clamp arms and hands in the "correct" horizontal position. It was a long while before audiences tumbled to the potential poetry of the pianistic spectacle.

They were given a nudge by Ladislav Dussek, possessor of a strikingly noble profile, who was the first pianist to insist on being seen side-on.



## MONDAY BOOK

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO THE PIANO  
EDITED BY DAVID ROWLAND,  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS, £14.95

Then they began to appreciate digital athletics: the Russian composer Glinka went into ecstasies over John Field's fingers, which "poured over the keys as pearls on velvet".

One observer described the way Chopin's hands "would suddenly expand and cover a third of the keyboard. It was like the opening of the mouth of a serpent, about to swallow a rabbit whole." Then came the eye-rolling, mane-tossing, mesmerising Liszt, and the game was raised for good.

I learned none of this, alas, from the sober essayists in *The Cambridge Companion to the Piano*, but I am indebted to one for a thought-provoking account of 19th-century concert life. Pianistic duels were not uncommon, with

the winner literally playing the loser out of the auditorium. Solo recitals – the term was first used by Liszt – were rare, with most concerts being variety acts in which several artists shared the stage. Virtuoso pianists doubled as accompanists for comics.

In contrast to their mute modern counterparts, 19th-century players introduced their own programmes, wandering among the audience to gauge the reaction. At a recital in 1848, Liszt "burst two bass strings, and personally fetched a second. After breaking yet another two strings, he loudly informed the public that, since it didn't satisfy him, he would play it again. As he began, he vehemently threw his gloves and handkerchief on the floor."

Audiences behaved like modern rock fans, shouting out the pieces they wanted, interrupting works which bored them. It sounds a great deal healthier than the strait-laced concert culture of today.

We have lost something, moreover, through our disdain for improvisation and our rigid distinction between "classical" and "new" music. In the Romantic era virtually all pianists were composers, and routinely played their own works. They improvised and took liberties which would now be anathema, rewriting Chopin and Schumann to display their keyboard talents to more flattering effect.

Now, textual fidelity is a fetish, and we are the poorer for it.

Throughout its 300-year history, the piano has inspired the greatest composers to their highest flights of creativity. In the hands of Alfred Bren-



Shining through: big bucks can be made from shooting the pianist

del, it's an orchestra; in the hands of Cecil Taylor, it's 88 tuned drums; when "prepared" by Lou Harrison, it's a Balinese gamelan.

In the 19th century, the piano was the focal point of every bourgeois home; in our century, it's the glue for social gatherings. And, as a piece of engineering, it has scarcely changed at all. It is, in sum, well suited to critical circumambulation.

Yet this book misses the mark by a mile. It was a mistake to imagine so compendious a subject could be jammed into 240 pages, and a worse one to entrust it to an editor who does not seem to understand what editing means, and whose prose is as leaden as David Rowland's. The chronological structure implies that it should be read, rather than consulted, yet to read it through is to be hit over the head by clanking repetitions. Was this august publisher unable to afford an in-house editor, or did he or she fall asleep on the job?

If the latter, I can quite see why. To divide the story into two parallel sections – "Pianos and pianists" and "Repertoire" – was not a bad idea, but with the strands so inextricably intertwined the job needed great editorial skill. Some chapters feel curiously arbitrary, others hopelessly cramped. Only Brian Priestley – dispatching "Ragtime, blues, jazz, and popular music" in 16 pages – manages to make sense of his near-impossible brief.

I'm still glad to have read this book. If only for the incidental insights along the way. But for the history of pianism in all its variegated glory, read Harold Schonberg's *The Great Pianists*. For a history of the repertoire, consult F.E. Kirby's exhaustive *Music for Piano*. And for pianism in the classical period, look into the superb *Mozart Compendium* or its Beethoven sibling (Thames & Hudson), both of which – Cambridge nota bene! – are exemplary works of reference.

MICHAEL CHURCH

## MONDAY POEM

SNOWDROPS  
BY TONY CONRAN

The snow's gone, green sinews  
Of the world stretch in the woods.  
Feeders on light come mewling.  
Leaf puts its key to the lock.

From the hud's cornucopia,  
From the coracle of the bulb  
The shy ones, the first merchants  
Stand with their wares in the mould.

Tony Conran's *Theatre of Flowers: collected pastorals 1954-1995* is published, price £4.95, by Gomer Press, Llandysul, Ceredigion SA44 4BQ

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# Mick McGahey

MICK MCGAHEY, Vice-President of the National Union of Mineworkers for 13 years until his retirement in 1987 at the age of 65, was probably the last of the genuine Reds, but he never hid his Communist under the bed. He detested Communists who tried to work "behind the scenes for the Party" while pretending to be something quite different. In short, he hated hypocrisy. He was proud of his political faith and called himself a "devout Communist".

Known to outsiders and the media as "Red Mick McGahey", he was called "Michael" by those who knew him well and respected him. His outspokenness and unwillingness to compromise won him as many enemies as friends. He did not suffer fools gladly and was just as happy in the company of a diehard Tory as an intransigent Trotskyite.

He loved the stimulation of good, intelligent conversation, particularly if there was a glass of amber liquid in his hand. He was not a raconteur and wit but was never devoid of humour. Once, when commenting publicly on a Tory sex scandal involving two members of the Lords, he quipped: "At least we Reds are in our own beds". His mainly serious profile did not detract from his charm and most listeners were relaxed and happy in his company.

His family came from Northern Ireland around the time of the Industrial Revolution and settled in the west of Scotland, where one generation followed the next down the mines. He was born in 1925, in the Lanarkshire town of Shotts. When he left school at the age of 14 on a Friday McGahey knew that he was starting work down the Gateside pit in Cambuslang, Lanarkshire the following Monday on the 7am shift.

His father, James, was one of the founding members of the Communist Party of Great Britain and had a strong influence on him: "I learned from my father a bitter resentment at the conditions and exploitation of ordinary working people." In contrast, his mother was a "seven days a week Catholic" from Derry. Indeed, she persuaded him to be a choir boy "for a few weeks" before he gave it up.

He was a member of the NUM and the Communist Party from his early teens and by 1951 was working a three-day week in the pit, with the rest of the week devoted to union work. By 1966 he was a full-time official and by then most men in the coalfield were aware of his oratory and authority. He was the typical class warrior but conceded that, as a union bureaucrat, he had to learn business acumen to handle miners' investments. His outstanding ability as a public speaker earned him a nickname he detested: "The Minister".

He believed that people were not born to rule or to be ruled and said every human being was entitled to an opportunity to grow, mentally and physically. Although he had fought for better pay and conditions all his life he hated materialism and disliked those who had an obsession

with money. "An acquisitive desire for cash reduces people to the status of cash. After all, you can only drive one car and eat sufficient food to keep you in good health."

One of his best achievements was the provision of pithead baths and laundry services. He had bitter memories of miners' wives staying up part of the night cleaning their men's clothes. He welcomed the emergence of feminism but admitted that he did not do the washing up or cooking. He was also responsible for the introduction of Self Rescuers after the Michael Colliery disaster in 1956, a system which gave men vital minutes in a poison-free atmosphere to reach safety after an accident.

A session in his presence usually got off to a good start. In answer to the question: "What would you like to drink, Michael?" he would reply: "A wee Bell's". In answer to the question: "What would you like in it?" he would respond: "Another wee Bell's". When he left a conference room for church colleagues always knew which pub he was heading for.

Industrial correspondents called an evening in his presence "an audience with Michael". Reporters of his acquaintance all admired him and he admitted to having a few "pet journalists" whom he actually liked. This did not mean, however, that he showed anyone any special favours and he had the gift of treating every scribe with an equal degree of contempt. One evening during the coal strike in 1984/85 a journalist probed vainly for the quote he wanted. McGahey said: "That's the 17th time you have asked that question and no matter how many times you ask it

perfections of some colleagues and never criticising their behaviour even when it was clearly warranted. His failure to bring the bitter 1984/85 coal strike to an end was the best example. He had the stature and the authority to do it, but stayed steadfastly loyal to the NUM President Arthur Scargill right to the ignominious end of that dispute. Most miners, particularly the hard left, would have followed him like a Pied Piper had he given the appropriate nod.

He refused to reveal his reasons for adhering so devotedly to the Scargill line, even in private. An authorised biography was ditched because he refused to disclose his views on many key issues or to discuss Scargill. Without that the book was unsaleable. He said: "Differences must remain within the family".

However, he could not hide his disillusionment with Scargill and when pressed by friends or journalists he would simply stare at the floor and shake his head sadly, referring to Scargill only as "that young man". He never forgave him for quitting the Young Communist League and said: "The trouble with that young man was that he didn't like standing outside the pithead selling the *Daily Worker*". It was the only criticism of Scargill I ever heard from his lips and he always refused to discuss why Scargill had ditched the Communists.

He once stated publicly that he believed in the "democracy of the ballot box". Quite why he changed his mind during the great strike of 84/85, however, will remain his secret. His public stand on starting the strike without a ballot was "because no man should vote another



McGahey at the 1980 NUM conference; his public-speaking ability earned him the nickname 'The Minister' *Hulton Getty*

suggested that the strike could have been started with a ballot.

There are many lessons to be learned, but people must remember that the miners had no choice but to fight.

MacGregor, without a ballot or consultation, decided with Thatcher's backing to close pits and throw thousands of men out of work at whatever the cost to the nation. It was a challenge that could not be ducked, and the men had a moral and constitutional right to ask their colleagues in the movement to help.

His contempt for the former Na-

tion kicking from shipmates in the Navy when he dared to sympathise with the Chinese over the "Yangtze incident". He was ambushed and beaten up by a mystery assailant during the coal strike and had black eyes for days afterwards.

But he could dish it out as well. When one journalist pushed a tape recorder up his nose he grabbed the machine and trapped the man's hand in the car door, seriously damaging the man's finger. The recorder was not returned. His loyal wife, Cathie, was often described as "more Red than Mick" and she threatened to thump a journalist who called her husband a "scarface boss". McGahey explained: "She wanted him to know that I was democratically elected."

The unification of the union was McGahey's priority after his retirement but the speedy collapse of the industry prevented that happening. He declared, in opposition to Scargill, that the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers should not be treated as "untouchables", as "Once they have been used by the Government and the Coal Board they will be discarded. They must be allowed to return without any talk of vengeance."

Mick McGahey suffered from chronic emphysema, a chest condition which gave him his wheeze and his gruff, gravel voice. He was proud of his four grandchildren and, before retirement, gave up a lifetime of smoking to ensure that he lived long enough to see them.

TERRY PATTONSON

For half a century no union, left-wing or Scottish Labour Party rally of consequence was complete without Mick McGahey's enlivening presence, writes Tam Dalyell. On one occasion a fervent, earnest feminist was haranguing us from the rostrum on the iniquity of male

chauvinism in the trade union movement in Scotland. As she screeched her closing peroration, there was a growl next to me, in that unmistakable basso profundo voice, matured by chronic emphysema, pneumoconiosis and half a million untipped cigarettes, "Good on you, hen! Anyone else would have been lynched."

Throughout the late 1980s, when chided with the failure of the miners to hold a ballot - which he would have had the political nous to do - McGahey told of his reply to the young Fife priest who questioned the NUM's failure to consult its membership. "Pontius Pilate did not hold a ballot vote on Barabbas and Jesus Christ. Jesus never got a ballot vote, but he went on to found a mass movement." The written word cannot convey the nasal inflection which produced laughter at the mention of names such as Barabbas.

McGahey did not believe in being hurtful to people long after events, which was why he refused to write his memoirs - "I would have to be fatal about men still alive, like Arthur Scargill and Albert Wheeler [the distinguished mining engineer who headed the NCB in Scotland at the time of the miners' strike]. They are human beings and have wives and families!" He was among the kindest of men. No miner's funeral went unattended, no widow unremembered.

Eric Clark, now MP for Midlothian but earlier general secretary of the Scottish Miners, who saw him day in and day out at close quarters said: "He disarmed his opponents by kindness. He never personalised problems, however angry he was on behalf of the miners."

McGahey was extremely cautious. When the leadership of the NUM during the miners' strike informed him: "We've got an excellent lawyer who will win for us," McGa-

hey replied: "Have you also got a good left-wing judge?" "Um, er!" And, he added: "And where does this lawyer come from?" "Barnsley." "Well I know even better lawyers!" "Where do they come from?" said the NUM leadership. "A place called the Tross of Court," said McGahey.

He was dismayed that NUM funds could evaporate in court cases. He would say: "Son, you don't run to the courts. And never above all do you sue the press. They'll get you. You trust your ability to have decent relations between you and the employer."

Joe Hogan, the respected mine manager of the Greenrigg, Woodend and Riddochhill collieries in West Lothian told me: "I never had any trouble with McGahey over 30 years. I found him straight and an excellent negotiator. Once an agreement was reached he kept his word and made everybody else keep theirs." McGahey asked Hogan and other mine managers to the NUM Christmas parties as honoured guests.

Cast in the formidably well-read tradition of Arthur Horner, Will Paynter, Abe and Alec Moffatt, and other Communist miners' leaders, Mick McGahey believed in the sustained, continuing mass expression of the Scottish populace. He died in the knowledge that after years of campaigning, a government has at last recognised the real hardship caused by the disease "white finger" associated with the mining industry. McGahey really did care about working people and they sensed it. He was a genuine working-class hero.

Michael McGahey, miner and trade unionist: born Shotts, Lanarkshire 29 May 1925; Vice-President, National Union of Mineworkers 1974-87; married 1954 Cathie Young (one son, two daughters); died Edinburgh 30 January 1999.

*He never forgave Scargill for quitting the Young Communist League and said: 'The trouble with that young man was that he didn't like standing outside the pit head selling the Daily Worker. It was the only criticism of Scargill he ever made'*

you will get the same answer". Finally, at 4am the reporter was assisted to bed. McGahey told his few remaining listeners: "The trouble with journalists today is that they have no staying power. Had he stayed for another drink he might have got the quote he wanted."

Being savaged by the man, however, was never unpleasant because you knew he was only doing it for your own good. He listened politely to all questions and rarely said "no comment". If he suspected, however, that the questioner was out to do down his beloved union he brought the conversation quickly to a conclusion. He could cope with personal attacks, however rare, but could not forgive a verbal or written assault on his union.

His loyalty and integrity were unmatched by anyone of his generation and background. If he had a fault, he was too loyal, failing to see the im-

man out of a job", a line copied parrot fashion by the then NUM general secretary Peter Heathfield.

He had given "King Arthur's" election his blessing when Scargill became President in 1982 because the Barnsley militant was the official candidate of the Left. McGahey took the view that if he could never be President himself, thanks to Joe Gormley's rule change which excluded him on the grounds of age, then it might as well be Scargill.

The fact that he never became NUM President was a big disappointment to all who knew him including, possibly, Downing Street. He believed in compromise, an art Scargill was never to perfect or even attempt. He steadfastly refused to blame himself, Scargill or anybody else for the inglorious end of the miners' strike. "There will be no sacrificial lamb," he growled when it was

tional Coal Board chairman Ian MacGregor and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was likened. He said: "MacGregor is an alien whose clan does not even have its own tartan. He christened Thatcher 'the hybionic blonde' and referred to the 'Triple Alliance' of miners, railwaymen and steelmen as the 'Cripple Alliance'."

McGahey's humour was mischievously blasphemous. His Catholic mother would never have approved of this remark: "If there had been a Communist mayor in Nazareth 1,987 years ago, they could have allocated Joseph a wee council house and saved us all a lot of bother."

He never ducked a challenge and carried the scars to prove it. Pioneering on behalf of the Communist Party as a 14-year-old, he was stabbed with a broken beer glass in a pub in Cambuslang, Lanarkshire. Not long afterwards he got a "good

## Michael Sherard

MICHAEL SHERARD was amongst the last valiant British dress designers to attempt a full-scale couture house run on Parisian lines.

When it opened in 1945 his relative youth, good looks and undoubted talents made him an instant hit with a fashion-hungry public depressed by post-war austerity. No matter that within a few years his spot in the limelight was superseded by John Cavanagh and then Ronald Paterson, Sherard had proved that his own British taste and ingenuity could triumph over shortages of materials, labour, and near-total perverse government indifference.

One of Sherard's first collections sold entirely to Marshall Field, the Chicago department store, boosting British exports and prestige, but the pre-war and wartime significance of London as a serious rival to Paris, largely a result of the genius of Norman Hartnell, was lost as the French government fully re-backed the French fashion industry after Liberation.

Sherard also maintained that the weight of talent on view from the major French houses in the 1947 travelling exhibition "Little Theatre of Fashion" privately convinced him that Britain could never compete again. Dior's "New Look" next made London's struggling houses seem second rate, but Sherard also attacked the unpatriotic negative attitude of leading British journalists and influential British women. His own house only lasted until 1964.

He was born in Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, in 1910, one of the six sons of Ada and Eustace Sherard. His father was a City solicitor

from a legal family well-established in Kingston, of which his grandfather was twice mayor. At Berkhamsted School, he was influenced by the classicist E.L.O. Flecker, brother of the poet, who instilled in him a love of the classics (Greece remained his favourite holiday destination) and encouraged him to draw and design scenery for school plays.

Sherard threatened to run away if forced into the law and attended the Westminster School of Art (1929-

nonsense reserved manner and great love of the arts and literature. Sherard appreciated the same qualities in others and enjoyed a wide circle of friends, but by 1939 his workaholic nature and the stress of working for Russell led to a duodenal ulcer. The subsequent war years were spent at the Admiralty as Deputy Assistant Censor Cables (Trade Division).

A Peter Russell client, the opera singer Ruth Vincent, introduced Sherard to her son John Fraser, who

*The Mousetrap* (twice) and *The Reluctant Debutante*. By 1948 Sherard was a member of Britain's Chambre Syndicale, the Incorporated Society of London Fashion Designers, and participated in their many shows and promotions, including the annual glamour shows in the presence of Queen Elizabeth (now the Queen Mother), and also making up designs for the Cotton Board, the National Wool Secretariat, the Nylon Spinners, the National Wool Export Board and fabric manufacturers such as Courtaulds, when new artificial fibres were promoted throughout the luxury end of the trade. Cecil Beaton photographed his own sister Mrs Alec Hambro in Sherard dresses for *Vogue* amidst the rococo splendours of Sir Henry Channon's "Amalienburg" dining room.

Sherard and Fraser inhabited three grandly decorated sets of chambers in Albany, where parties, shows and models were much photographed, together with his dachshunds Hansel and Humperdink.

This life style was curtailed after they moved out in 1954. In spite of his change of professional name Sherard was an unpretentious man, typically insisting that he was a dress designer, not a "couturier". In 1952 a new yellow and off-white salon was the show-piece of his new house at 17 Curzon Street, Mayfair, and Sherard lived nearby until he died. The events surrounding the Coronation of the Queen resulted in prosperous domestic seasons. Three workrooms employed some 40 people producing elegant garments in the vanguard of



Sherard, second from right, with his mother (far right) dressed in Hartnell, at a wedding in 1935

fashion. If never trend-setters, Sherard's designs fully enhanced individual personalities. "One's nicest clients are seldom the most wealthy or smartest, but they have 'chic'."

The best-selling clothes of his career were evening dresses, at which he excelled: a lavishly leafy-tied crinoline of 1952 and a classically draped sheath evening dress of 1956 sum up his controlled elegance and fascination with eternally young classical designs; they are also indicative of the individual talents of two famous former assistants, Murray Arbell and Caroline Charles.

In spite of successful ready-to-

wear lines marketed world-wide under different labels, Sherard lacked the clout of a great innovator or client that would have resulted in lucrative merchandising of his name, his big push of the "Punkin" line at the 1961 Venice Film Festival British Designers Show was a brave attempt that met a tepid response. By 1964 new fashion centres, street styles and rising costs led to the demise of his house, but then came a fulfilling career lecturing at the London and Shoreditch Colleges of Fashion.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in 1966 and a

member of the Clothing Institute, and his fascination with design resulted in close involvement with the rebuilding of the Girdlers' Hall in the City of London and responsibility for the interior design; he was particularly proud of his "Dancing Staircase" design. As Master of the company in 1959-60, he laid the foundation stone and maintained a close connection with it until his death.

MICHAEL PICK

Malcolm Henry Sherard, dress designer: born Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey 17 July 1910; died London 26 December 1998.



# Mary Delaney

IT WAS impossible to label Mary Delaney. None of the roles she performed defined her - family law barrister, defender of abused women and children, human-rights campaigner, confidante, loyal friend or mother. She brought her own slightly eccentric style to all of these roles. Her vitality and energy made things happen and she became a focal point for people from all walks of life.

She was born in Bristol, the eldest of two brothers and two sisters. Her mother, Audrey, was a GPO telephonist and her father, Patrick, an electrician from County Down. Mary's passion for justice came from Pat's belief in the Labour movement and his sense of fairness and compassion; her quicksilver mind, unpredictability and intense interest in other people's lives from Audrey.

At the age of seven she announced that she wanted to be a lawyer having watched Crown Court on television. It was a decision she never wavered from, and after leaving La Retraite High School she graduated in law at University College London, going on to bar school at Gray's Inn. She was intelligent and blessed with a phenomenal memory, so her student days were spent in pursuit of what she enjoyed most in life - chatting with an ever-growing circle of friends.

It was her interest in other people and her concern about how their lives were turning out that made conversations with Mary Delaney so absorbing. She would get right alongside people emotionally, listen intently, always propose solutions to any problem. Most people who met her were at some point counselled on their love life by her. On the next occasion you met she would cut straight to the chase and her infamous memory ensured she remembered every detail, however trivial.

She was called to the Bar in 1984 and during her pupillage, an abysmal time financially, she became a gypsy, staying with one friend after another, gathering more stories and thoroughly enjoying herself. A tenancy at 3 Temple Gardens and then at 1 Pump Court brought the beginnings of financial stability as her reputation as a popular family barrister grew.

At Pump Court she was the first of a new generation of women at the Bar who didn't feel obliged to behave like honorary men. She cross-examined without hectoring, without any macho behaviour, getting the truth out in her own way. She brought her own humour

*She was the first of a new generation of women at the Bar who didn't feel obliged to behave like honorary men*

enough to make things happen. She put much of her spare time and energy into persuading others that supporting the Friends was the right thing to do and she was such an eloquent, persuasive individual that all kinds of people supported her. Every decision in the group's founder made, small or large, was first checked with her. Virtually every trip made in connection with the campaign was with her alongside, to Paris for the release of one French hostage after another, up to Blackpool for the political party conferences, to countless other meetings up and down the country.

Her daughter Anna was born in 1991, just before the release of the British hostages. Delaney's inventiveness and her understanding and compassion for children, qualities she shared with her partner Roh Small, made her a magnet for them. She was never happier than when she was surrounded by kids, or



ganising a mad game that she had just made up.

In 1996 she was drawn to Camden Women's Aid, a local authority-funded organisation that provides refuge accommodation for women fleeing violence in the home. She became a linchpin of its management committee and children's sub-committee, attending meetings, raising money and organising events. Again, her talent for bringing people together and enthusiasm for the cause brought vital practical support and funds.

Towards the end of 1997 Delaney was diagnosed with a particularly aggressive form of bone cancer and underwent a series of debilitating treatments. She would weaken and then revive but her zest for company and talk for games and children, never left her, even when it became clear that she had little time left. Her fate, and what little

self-pity she felt, were opened up for discussion with her friends.

She married Roh, her partner for nine years, two months before her death and the wedding breakfast - an evening barbecue in a Cornish cove - had all the usual Delaney ingredients: children, fun and games. The night before she died she was in EuroDisney with Roh, Anna and her sister Nicola. Mary Delaney's many friends are left without her guiding light, her phone calls, her gift for bringing people together, and making things happen. But she has also left us knowing what love and friendship are all about.

JILL MORRELL

Mary Eileen Delaney, barrister: born Bristol 20 February 1961; called to the Bar, Gray's Inn 1984; married 1998 Roh Small (one daughter); died London 23 January 1999.

# Jimmy Day

JIMMY DAY was among the most prolific and influential pedal steel guitarists in country music history. Buddy Emmons, himself a master of the instrument, called him "the only steel guitar player I've heard, or heard of, that no one has been able to copy. He captures his feelings on the fly, and if you don't catch it the first time it could well be history."

The introduction, in the 1940s, of pedals to the standard Hawaiian-based steel guitar revolutionised the instrument's capabilities and offered a fresh palette of chordal combinations and tonal effects. Over the years devotees have continued to develop its range and Day's introduction in 1956 of an E note in the middle of the then standard eight-string tuning is widely recognised as a milestone. He also popularised the now common technique of using the palm of the picking hand to mute string vibrato and has, both as an innovator and as a performer, had a lasting influence on subsequent generations of players.

His romance with the steel guitar started at the age of 15 when he saw Harold "Shot" Jackson playing alongside the Bailes Brothers on local television. Within three years he was working in the band of the leading honky-tonk singer Webb Pierce, backing him both on the popular *Louisiana Hayride*, broadcast weekly on KWKH, Shreveport, and on disc, his first foray into the recording studio resulting in the Pierce chart-topper "That Heart Belongs To Me" (1952).

His time at Shreveport brought him into contact with many of the most important stars of the period from Faron Young and Red Sovine, to Johnny Horton and the legendary Hank Williams. He worked alongside Lefty Frizzell, the pianist Floyd Cramer and a young singer from Tupelo, Mississippi named Elvis Presley and began an association with Jim Reeves which would see him play on many of the singer's Abbott sides. In 1955 he cut two instrumental numbers for the label "Rip it out" and "Blue Wind" before heading for Nashville.

In addition to becoming an in-demand session musician, playing on seminal records such as Ray Price's "Crazy Arms" (1956) and Charlie Walker's "Pick Me Up On Your Way Down" (1958), he joined Price's Cherokee Cowboys, forming a lifelong friendship with band member and future superstar Willie Nelson. When Nelson left to go solo in 1962 he took Day with him and over the next decade he flitted between bands, backing George Jones, Ferlin Husky and Little Jimmy Dickens and rejoining both Price and Nelson.

In the late 1950s he formed a partnership with Buddy Emmons in setting up their Sho-Bud Company with the intention of designing and manufacturing the first pedal steel guitars with push-rod pedals. Working initially out of a garage, the company became a byword for quality and innovation and proved a major business enterprise.

In 1961 he cut an acclaimed album of instrumentals entitled *Golden Steel Guitar Hits*, following it a year later with

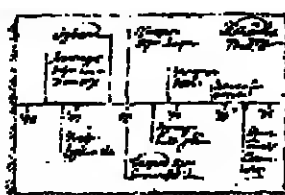
*Steel and Strings*, a smooth collection of country standards featuring sympathetic choral and orchestral work. In 1993 Bear Family record brought them together on a dazzling single CD.

In the 1970s Day became a mainstay of the Texas scene, working with Price, Nelson and the honky-tonk great Johnny Bush and venturing back to Nashville only occasionally. He cut a fine long-player in salute to Hank Williams' steelie Don Helms and in 1992 paid tribute to another idol by recording an instrumental duet album with western swing veteran Herb Remington, *A Day With Remington*.

Latterly involved in a series of projects to market steel guitar tuition videos, in 1992 he was inducted into the International Steel Guitar Hall of Fame and in 1994 into the Western Swing Hall of Fame.

PAUL WADEY

James Clayton Day, pedal steel guitarist: born Tuscaloosa, Alabama 9 January 1934; married (one daughter); died Texas 22 January 1999.



## HISTORICAL NOTES ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND

# Networking in medieval Scotland

IN MEDIEVAL times aristocratic women were regarded as possessions of their fathers, husbands or sons. "Medieval networking" as it has been called was just as effectively carried out by arranged marriages as on the battlefield, for what mattered most to the Scottish nobility was their territory, their castles and their children.

Nowhere is this more clearly demonstrated than in the lives of five women all called Euphemia and all related to the great earls of Ross. Although on the face of it all five women were regarded as possessions, in fact their influence over the life and times of their country was probably just as great as that of their jousting, feuding and charter-signing husbands.

Euphemia I was a Gaelic-speaking Celt born in Applecross, a remote mountainous peninsula in the Western Highlands where her father Farquhar Mactaggart was hereditary lay abbot and lord of A-Chromraich (the Sanctuary), once an important monastic centre of Pictish evangelisation. A successful warrior, Farquhar was knighted by Alexander II for decapitating a rival claimant to the throne and created earl of Ross (a title now held by Prince Charles).

He took his family to Easter Ross and Euphemia was married to a descendant of Freskin the Fleming, one of a large number of Anglo-

Norman families given land and castles by the Scottish kings who supported the new feudal system. Although the clash of Celtic and feudal cultures evident in language, marriage customs and law must have been tricky for Euphemia when she became chaitaine of Duffus castle in Morayshire, it is due to women like her that the old Celtic ways were maintained and the Gaelic language gradually superseded by Scots rather than French.

Euphemia I lived in the golden age of the Alexanders when art, architecture and chivalry thrived because Scotland and England were at peace. Euphemia II was not so fortunate. As wife of the third earl during the first War of Independence, she controlled his vast territory during his seven years imprisonment in the Tower of London.

By skilfully balancing her support between the Scottish freedom fighters and the English Edward I, Euphemia II managed to keep her clan lands intact. She emerges as a charming manipulator who in the end was caught up in the storm of nationalism that was to sweep through Scotland during the 14th century.

Euphemia III was the first Stewart queen of Scotland. As second wife of Robert II she had nine step-children to rear including four of her own, thus her influence over the future aristocracy of Scotland was important.

Euphemia IV was married off by David II without her father's permission to one of the king's cronies, a crusader called Walter Leslie who has been described with some justice as a thug. She brought him the earldom, Dingwall castle and vast territories in the north. After his death she married the notorious Wolf of Badenoch who took his mistress and her five sons to live near Dingwall. Euphemia was permitted by the Pope to divorce him, a rare event in those days.

Her grand-daughter and heiress to the earldom, Euphemia V was an only child, born with a congenital spine deformity. After her father's untimely death, she was persuaded to relinquish the earldom and enter a convent, the only career open to an unmarried girl.

Thus through the lives of these five women: chaitaine, adventures, queen, divorcee and nun - it is possible to catch a glimpse of what life was like for women of substance in medieval Scotland. Shorter, certainly, undoubtedly more dangerous, but less happy? Impossible to generalise. At least today women have the freedom to make their own mistakes and control their own destinies.

Elizabeth Sutherland is the author of *Five Euphemias: women in medieval Scotland 1200-1420* (Constable £20)

## CASE SUMMARIES

1 FEBRUARY 1999

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

### Magistrates' court

*R v Clerk to the Bradford Justices, ex p Sykes and anor*; QBD, Div Ct (Buxton LJ, Collins J); 14 Jan 1999.

THERE WAS NO duty on a magistrates' clerk or a magistrate to make inquiries to satisfy himself that the issue of a summons would not be vexatious before issuing that summons. The question whether the issue of a summons was an abuse of process should be raised at the hearing of that summons.

*Subhir S Basra (Basra, Bradford) for the applicants; Timothy Spencer (CPS Yorkshire Area, Bradford) for the prosecution.*

### Company

*Official Receiver v Keam and anor*; Ch D (Jonathan Parker J) 14 Jan 1999.

ON THE true construction of s 16(1) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986, there was no reason in principle why a person intending to apply for the making of a disqualification order could name any one company as the lead company.

*Matthew Collins (Payne Hicks Beach) for the first respondent; Jonathan Crow (Burstons, Brighton) for the Official Receiver.*

### Stamp duty

*M & G Securities v IRC; Schroder Unit Trusts Ltd v IRC*; Ch D (Park J) 21 Jan 1999.

THE REFERENCE in s 54(4)(b) of the Finance Act 1946 to "a proportionate part of the trust property" being realised was a reference to the realisation by

the unit holders of their units, that realisation taking the form of the unit holders exchanging their units, which were undivided shares in the entire fund of underlying investments and cash, for specific investments and cash sums.

*Christopher McColl QC (Rowe & Mason) for M & G Securities; Kevin Prosser QC (Eversheds) for Schroder; Laurence Henderson QC, Christopher Tidmarsh (R Solt) for the Revenue.*

### Employment

*Bolwell v Redcliffe Homes Ltd and anor*; CA (Simon Brown LJ, Wilson J) 20 Jan 1999.

AN EMPLOYEE could not consent to a transfer of his employment without his knowledge. That would run counter to the principle that an individual's contractual position could not be altered by two other parties without that having been communicated to him, particularly with regard to an issue as important as the identity of his employer.

*Dawn Wirtzel (Simcox Associates, Bath) for the plaintiff; Michael Roach (Swain & Co, Cardiff) for the first defendant; Milwyn Jarman (Pulser Grossman, Cardiff) for the second defendant.*

### Practice

*Woodford & Ackroyd v Broad v Burgess*; CA (Stuart-Smith, Schiemann, Clarke LJ) 20 Jan 1999.

THE INHERENT jurisdiction of a High Court judge was wide enough to enable him to rule on the admissibility of evidence on a pre-trial review, although there might be cases where it would be inappropriate to exercise the power prior to trial because the trial judge would be the best person to decide on admissibility. There was no distinction between a pre-trial review and a summons for directions.

*David Mathias (Andrew Isaacs Practice, Bournemouth) for the appellant; Ana Ralphs (Blake Lopham, Fareham) for the respondent.*

## WORDS CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

plump, v.

something espoused by Mrs Thatcher. Matters of girlhood, this sense is from Low German, *plumpen*, an onomatopoeic verb for something that falls directly into water. (The senses can merge: to plump cushions rectifies the effect of those who plumped into them.) By extension, to plump is to vote plump - directly for one candidate, no truck with transferable votes. The PR approach to the Miles dilemma would have been to buy both sets, which makes sense.

# GAZETTE

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

### BIRTHS

DOBSON, Susan, peacefully at home on 23 January aged 47. Funeral service to be held in the Lake District with a memorial service in London later. Family flowers only please, donations can be made to RACUP, c/o Leverton and Sons, 0171 387 6973.

### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

### BIRTHDAYS

Lord Abernethy, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 61; Mrs Hazel Alexander, sculptor, 87; Miss Kate Ashbrook, general secretary, Open Spaces Society, 44; Dr Christopher Barnett, headmaster, Whitgift School, Croydon, 46; Sir Kenneth Bond, former vice-chairman, GEC, 79; Sir Peter Crill, judge, Court of Appeal of Jersey and Guernsey, 74; Mrs Joceline Dimbleby, writer on cookery, 56; Mr Bruce Dinwiddie, High Commissioner to Tanzania, 53; Professor Sir Sam Edwards, physicist, 71; Mrs Virginia Elliot, 3-Day Eventer, 44; Mr Don Everly, rock singer, 63; Sir Douglas Hall BT, former overseas governor, 90; Hildegarde (Miss Hildegarde Sell), singer and actress, 93; Sir Gordon Hobday, former chancellor, Nottingham University, 83; Mr Adam Ingram MP, Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, 62; Professor Douglas Johnson, historian of

France, 74; Mrs Eleanor Laing MP, 41; Sir Maurice Laing, life president, John Laing plc, 81; Mr John Donald McCall, former chairman, Consolidated Gold Fields, 88; Sir Stanley Matthews, footballer, 84; Sir John Nott, former chairman and chief executive of Lazard, 67; Professor Sir Mark Richmond, member, School of Public Policy, University College, London, 68; Mr Peter Sallis, actor, 78; Mr Andrew Smith MP, Minister for Welfare to Work and Equal Opportunities, 48; Dame Muriel Spark, novelist, 81; Sir Peter Tapsell MP, 69; Miss Renata Tebaldi, operatic soprano, 77; Mr Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation, 68.

### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: John Philip Kemble, actor, 1757; Jacques-Emile Blanche, painter, 1881; Hugo von Hofmannsthal, playwright and poet, 1874; John Ford (Sean Aloysius O'Fear-

na), film director, 1895; Stephen Meredith Potter, writer and "gamesman", 1900; William Clark Gable, actor, 1901; James Langston Hughes, poet, 1902; Sidney Joseph Perelman, humorous writer, 1904.

Deaths: René Descartes, scientist and philosopher, 1650; Augustus II, Elector of Saxony and King of Poland, 1733; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Godwin), author of *Frankenstein*, 1851; George Cruikshank, caricaturist and illustrator, 1878; Sir George Gabriel Stokes, mathematician, 1903; Carlos I, King of Portugal, and the Crown Prince, assassinated 1908; Piet Mondrian, abstract painter, 1944; Buster (Joseph Francis) Keaton, silent film comedian, 1966.

On this day: Mount Etna, Sicily began violent eruptions, 1868; the first volume of the *Oxford English Dictionary* was published, 1884; *La Bohème*, the opera by Puccini, was first staged in Turin,

1896; the first British labour exchanges opened, 1910; clothes rationing ended in Britain, 1949; the United Arab Republic was formed by a union of Egypt and Syria, 1958.

Today is the Feast Day of St Bride or Brigid of Kildare, St Henry Morse, St John of the Grating, St Pious, St Seiriol and St Sigbert III of Austrasia.

### LECTURES

Royal Society of Arts, London WC2: Dr David McGilne and Dr Andrew Wallard: "The Future of the Pharmaceutical Industry", 6pm.

Royal Academy of Arts at the Society of Antiquaries, London W1: Mary Anne Stevens, "The Public and Private Face of Monet after 1900", 1pm.

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Sir Mark Richmond, "How Science Contributes to Wealth Creation", 1pm.







# The gift of second sight

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

Richard Lane, 31, works as press officer for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Alison Lane, 30, works in the accounts department at the theatrical agency, Peters, Frazer and Dunlop. They live with Richard's guide dog, Norton, in Clapham, south London. They talk about initiating a relationship when one partner has lost their sight

**R**ichard started losing his sight in 1991; I went on the blind register in 1992, and when I met Alison a year later, it was a pretty painful time. I was a young man in my early twenties, struck with blindness – a really horrible thing to happen to anyone. I was on an emotional roller-coaster. Some days I'd be fine and coping; the next day I could hardly face finding the bathroom. Genetically, being blind was on the cards but I thought I'd be nearer 50 than 22. There were times when I felt suicidal. I was drowning my friends and family with my grief, so I had help with counselling and anti-depressants. I spent a lot of time lying on my bed, drinking whisky and saying to my flat mates: "Will I ever meet anyone?" "Of course you will," they'd reply, probably thinking "I hope he bloody does because he's driving us mad."

I met Alison at a party of a mutual friend, Karen. We spent a lot of time talking on a sofa. I felt we were on the same wavelength and she left a huge impression on me. I knew I would see her again because we were all going to a concert with friends the following week. Karen suggested that Ali might pick me up. I was just about to phone her and say "Hello, I'm the boring man at the party." But she phoned me first. That evening she had to guide me on the tube during rush hour – our first physical contact. Taking her elbow, I realised that she was quite short and bird-like in physique. One of the maddening things about not being able to see is that in the early days you struggle to build up a picture of what someone looks like, and I'm quite impatient. That evening I realised I wanted Ali, rather than anyone else, to be guiding me. I wanted to manipulate the situation so that she was taking me to the bar and I could sit next to her.

Rehearsing for a concert was the backdrop to our courtship: on humid August evenings we'd get very hot playing Bach and then

drink beers. I knew I wanted to be with Ali but my liaison with her had been blind had been short-lived. I was worried whether a woman would want to have a long meaningful relationship with me. The stakes were high and I feared failure. Quite early on I sent her a big bouquet of flowers, although my mates were saying "Hold on". For a blind Romeo this was a high-risk strategy but deep down I was convinced that she was attracted to me. As we rehearsed it became an unspoken rule that Ali would be my helper. She is shy and not the most outwardly confident person, but by default she had to take the initiative.

By the time of the concert we had started going out and we let our feelings be known to each other. I was catapulted on to another planet: I was so happy. Not long before I met Ali I was only using my white stick and I nearly toppled over on to a train line at Clapham Junction. A month into knowing Ali, I went for guide dog training with an 18-month-old Labrador called Norton who gave me more confidence and dignity. It was hard to feel that 1993 was the same year; within months two pairs of eyes came into my life – Ali's and Norton's, which really helped me to get my confidence back.

Now we've been married for two years, and I can't imagine my life without Alison. Of course I'd chop off my left arm to see Ali. When I dream about her I hear her talking to me but I don't see her. But now I'm sure that now if I got my sight back, I could pick her out in a room full of people.

**A**lison My friend Karen used to tell me about "blind Richard" long before I met him. I had this image of him as looking like a hippy but he turned up at Karen's party wearing a cream jumper, perfectly ironed jeans and a spanking new haircut – not my image of "blind

Richard." I sat next to him on the sofa and we chatted. I was curious about him being blind and I asked him all sorts of questions. I had this image of Richard as someone who wasn't very confident. What a typical stereotype! I was surprised at how confident and normal Richard seemed to be, and we sat drinking and chatting. I remember going home that night and thinking about what it must be like to lose your sight.

The following week Karen was playing in a concert and I had arranged to pick Richard up. I felt really awkward but he showed me how to guide him with his right arm. During rehearsals I really got to know him, and that's when I first started to realise that I felt quite strongly about him. That scared me a bit. When I realised Richard was getting very keen I was flattered but even more scared. It sounds awful but it seemed an amazing responsibility. Richard was quite forward and he sent me a huge bunch of flowers and I thought: "Can I really handle this? Do I

really want this?" I panicked. I thought we have a good time together, his blindness isn't a problem. I discussed it with my twin sister. She thought Richard was lovely and said: "So what if it doesn't work out?" That was five years ago.

On our wedding day Richard was quite disturbed that he would be the last to know what my dress was like because no-one would describe it as I was walking up the aisle. At the altar he gave me a little frisk. Richard is very tactile and I always show him what I've bought to wear.

In the last five years Richard has changed a lot. He deals with his blindness much better than he did. He used to have what we'd call "blue" days about once a month when he didn't want to cope and he felt miserable. When Richard's feeling blue I feel a bit blue too. Now his blue days are much rarer, and I know that our being married has given him confidence.

In a funny way Richard's blindness has helped me. I am the sort of person who would stand back and let Richard get on and do the things men often do. But because of Richard's blindness it is me who puts the screen wash in the car and uses the drills to put pictures up and I do the house accounts.



Much like any other couple: 'within months two pairs of eyes came into my life – Ali's and Norton's', says Richard of his wife and his guide dog

Glynn Griffiths

## To Sir, with love

As a young teacher Daniel Angadi was adored by girls at his school. Last week he was cleared of seducing one of them

**S**HE WAS young and "hungry for love". He was adored by all the girls at the school for his boyish enthusiasm. Daniel Angadi was – and still is – by all accounts, a brilliant teacher, passionate about the subjects he taught, history and drama, and interested in the welfare of his pupils. But somewhere along the line, messy emotions intervened.

Last week at Southwark Crown Court one of his former pupils, now 28, accused Angadi, 54, of taking her virginity when she was just 14. She claimed they had sex at the school, in hotels and at his home. He accepted that he had an "extraordinarily passionate" affair with the girl – but only after she left school, aged 18.

The girl in question also told the court Angadi wrote a spoof reference when she was only 15, including the lines, "I can unhesitatingly recommend her as a lover. All in all, I would say she could manage any position."

Angadi denied many of the lurid details, and was found not guilty on five counts of indecent assault.

According to him, his involvement with the girl was "normal" until she was 17, when he wept and poured his heart out to her over the break-up of his marriage. He also said he stopped the relationship after meeting the woman who was to become his second wife. By this time the girl was at university and dating other men.

As Angadi told the court: "It was something that should have been left at the adulation it was before she left school." Adulation is really the key word here, one that most young male teachers have to come to terms with at some point in their careers, particularly if they work in a single-sex school.

At Angadi's school, however, the atmosphere seemed especially intense. "The girls all fell in love with him, of course," says Miranda, one former pupil. "One rando, one former pupil. 'One rando' even complained about it, but that was what all 14-year-olds did really. We spent our whole time



'I suppose we all used to throw ourselves at him'

pect of his charisma. Amanda says: "You would always get those dirty old men at school – the sort you usually associate with the details that came out in court – but he truly wasn't one of them."

Lucy, another ex-pupil now in her thirties, recalls the time Angadi took her to the British Library to work on a translation of a medieval miracle play he was producing. "He got me in by saying I was an undergraduate when I was only 17. To me that was madly exciting, and to be collaborating on something like that was great. It wasn't just the illicitness of it, but that fact that he treated me like an adult and like a colleague."

Miranda describes a competitive atmosphere where girls in her class would vie for his attentions. "He was just gorgeous – girls felt very strongly about him. All the plays we did with him were so exciting. He was such an influence on so many girls' lives. He had this mellifluous voice and taught us about Marxism." He also had an office near the drama department which he did up – with the aid of willing helpers. "Girls used to queue up to help him do that."

At one point, he asked Miranda to sit beside him during class – it was, she insists, completely innocent. "Other girls were so jealous. He was such an influence on so many girls' lives. He had this mellifluous voice and taught us about Marxism." He also had an office near the drama department which he did up – with the aid of willing helpers. "Girls used to queue up to help him do that."

The crossover between paternal and romantic figure was muddling for the girls, and perhaps for Angadi as well. One ex-pupil says, "He was a tremendous mentor and the only person who really treated us like equals: he cared about what we had to say."

Yet for any pre-pubescent being treated as an adult can also be confusing. "I suppose we used to throw ourselves at him. But then in some ways he was like a parent, just a very attractive one," says Miranda.

Such an ambiguous combination had to, one day, end in tears.

## The crying games

Video games, ice cream, chocolate, anything to stop the tantrums. How else can parents cope when their little lambs turn into monsters. By Joanna Moorhead

**I**N MY earliest memory I am about three years old on a shopping expedition. My mother and I are in an underground walkway when something makes me angry. Really angry. So angry that I first shout, then scream, then lie on the floor and shout and scream and flail my arms and legs around at the same time.

As I do so, I notice the look on my mother's face. It is fear: and for the first time in my life, I am suddenly aware of my own power. I am having a tantrum in a public place, and my mother will do anything to release her from such a mortifyingly embarrassing situation. Two minutes and the promise of an ice cream later and I'm a little lamb again, but a little lamb who knows she only has to pretend to be a monster to get her own way.

It's lesson number one in the preschooler's "Guide To Successful Tantrums", that unwritten rule book for every two and three-year-old. Disarmament comes in the shape of The Parent Who Says No: and then says "No" again, and again, and again. The parent who says "No" even when her little darling is shrieking at the supermarket checkout, or yelling on the sitting-room floor: the parent who still says "No" 10 minutes later, when the neighbours are on the point of phoning social services.

But how many of us are that parent? Not Chris and Claudia Simpson of Corby in Northamptonshire, who last week confessed to one newspaper that they let two-year-old son Samuel watch video games for up to 10 hours day rather than cope with his tantrums. "It means peace for us," says Claudia. "He's only quiet when he's in front of the screen."

Video games aren't an ideal solution. Through sheer desperation the Simpsons have had to compromise – a familiar scenario for most parents. Why? Because it's so awful to see your sweet child turned into the most horrible beast on earth, and even worse to have witnesses.

"It's what you imagine they're thinking about you," says Gillian Neale, mother of five-year-old Harriet and 16-month-old Isabel. "When your child throws a complete wob-



I'll scream and scream – and scream

John Lawrence

bly in the street, it's never in someone else's street. Oh no: it's always in your street, 50 yards from your front door, so everyone who sees it knows who you are."

But it's the supermarket special that parents really dread. "I do anything to prevent it: I open packet after packet of food from my trolley in a desperate attempt to keep the tantrums at bay, so by the time we reach the checkout almost everything I'm buying is already opened," says Gillian.

If deflection fails, you've got three choices: a) give in to the child's request; b) produce a bribe; or c) get the hell out of there (with your child, unfortunately). "If you're going to give in," says mother-of-three, Kate Amis, "the important thing is to give in straight away. There's no point fighting for 10 minutes and then giving in. One thing I've realised is that you don't hold out over something trivial: these days when we go to the newsagent's I say 'yes'

straightaway to Wotsits. I save the battles for things that matter."

Bribes are a tactic that almost every mother will admit to having used at one time: some of us never leave home without a packet of chocolate buttons. It's the third option, getting the hell out, that causes the most difficulty. "I was at a posh birthday party when my two-year-old, Phoebe, suddenly went wild because she didn't understand how to play musical chairs," says Kate Amis. "She was screaming and howling and all these mothers were looking at me. I just turned into a ball of sweat and tried to cram her into the pushchair so we could get out. Then I realised my handbag was on the other side of the room. I seriously considered leaving without it."

It's not just ordinary parents who end up in these sort of scrapes: psychologist Richard Woolson, author of *From Birth to Starting School* (Corgi Books, £9.99) admits to having abandoned a trolley-full of

shopping in order to flee with a tantruming child. "Before you have children you think, tut, tut, what sort of parents can they be?" he says. "Then a few years later you realise it happens to all of us."

Tantrums, says Woolson, are all about control. They come in two types: type one is the frustration tantrum, where your child loses control because he can't work something out. This is the easier kind to deal with, because you can look out for the triggers and deflect. Type two is the killer: the "I want that" tantrum. They can sound amusing in the telling, but make no mistake: this is the frontline of responsible parenting. Let your child walk all over you once and it will happen again (and again, and again), and in no time your little lamb is everyone else's brat of the millennium. So, when it matters, just say no. It's easier to say than to do, but here's the good news: children learn from it, and most of them learn fast.



## SHAPE OF ARTS TO COME

NO 4: COMEDY - TOMMY TIERNAN

I'm a comedian.  
I don't do gags

You want jokes? You've come to the wrong place. The crack-a-minute school of comedy is dead. By James Rampton

It was just a few minutes into the opening act at a comedy club last week that my heart sank. The comedian - who shall remain nameless - launched into a rat-tat-tat routine about Tony Hart, the presenter on such children's TV programmes as *Vision On* and *Take Hart*. Seventies telly is the last resort of the scoundrel - and the terminally unimaginative stand-up. If I have to hear another joke about *Thunderbirds* or *Star Trek*, I shall reach for my Luger.

I am not alone. Many people appear to be tiring of gag-a-minute comedy. No longer satisfied with cheap cracks about Viagra or hackneyed observations beginning "have you ever noticed...?", comedy-followers are veering towards more thought-provoking, narrative-driven acts. Often teetering on the brink of theatre, these are being performed by post-Eddie Izzard comedians such as Tommy Tiernan, Bruce Morton, Ed Byrne, Owen O'Neill and Michael Smiley. They spin complex yarns that build through a whole hour and whose impact lingers for days, if not weeks, as opposed to scattergun jokes whose resonance barely lasts until the next sentence.

These acts are feeding an audience need to go beyond shallow tee-hees at the expense of President Clinton's taste in cigars towards more serious meditations on love and death. Audiences who have matured with the alternative explosion are increasingly drawn to story-telling rather than gag-tagging. Comedy is growing up. But are we seeing the future or just another here-today-gone-tomorrow fad? Ed Smith, company manager at Stone Ranger, thinks it's something more concrete.

"People have decided there are certain limitations to knob gags," says Smith who promotes such comedians as Tiernan, Byrne and Smiley. "What makes alternative comedy alternative is that the comedian delivers something of himself rather than just doing a joke. The difference between Bernard Manning and Eddie Izzard is that Izzard is revealing something of himself - look at his stuff about cross-dressing. If you're telling stories about yourself, it's a more honest route to laughs. It allows audiences to see the personality of a performer - and they have a higher tolerance level of that than of some quickfire gag-merchant. People don't go and see Izzard for jokes - they

just want to be in the same room as him."

Richard Bucknall, who runs RBM, a comedy management agency that handles Morton, agrees that story-telling creates more of a bond with an audience than a jokesmith rattling off punchlines. "Story-tellers like Morton or O'Neill talk to people, rather than at them. That's more relaxing for an audience because they feel they're part of an event as opposed to being shut outside the fourth wall listening to a string of gags."

"With a lot of one-liner comedy, there is no relationship between the performer and the audience. Gag merchants' material is based on purely local events, but what Morton is talking about - loss, pain, love - can be understood by someone in Pittsburgh or Birmingham. Story-tellers talk about life, and people live the same

arts

life the world over. What's happened to them could happen to anyone. The more personal it is, the more universal it is."

Audiences, Bucknall continues, are also becoming more discerning. "They have been educated that you can sit back and listen to a story rather than having to laugh every minute. They are fed up with gag-a-minute comedy and want a bit more depth. Darker moments actually enrich comedy because you appreciate the laughs all the more." Morton chips in that we shouldn't be restricted by traditional notions of comedy. "A great story doesn't have to be something that elicits a laugh all the time. If it elicits engagement or excitement, then it's equally valid."

After winning the Perrier and the Best Stand-Up gong at the British Comedy Awards, 30-year-old Tiernan has been landed with bearing the standard for this new breed of story-tellers. The Irish comedian's discursive show, *Undivine Comedy*, roams over such apparently uncomical terrain as religious intolerance, sadistic schoolteachers and the difficulty of telling your father that you love him. Not subjects you'd ever imagine Jim Davidson tackling.

"I'm not interested in getting up and just telling jokes," Tiernan says. "That's fine if you're in a taxi with someone for

five minutes, but on stage it's really boring. You'd watch Billy Connolly do a two and a half hour show, but you couldn't do the same for someone just doing gags - you'd soon see through it. Pure gags don't last. There is a Gary Larson cartoon about Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address which shows that the first two minutes of the speech were actually jokes to warm the audience up - but no one remembers that bit."

Fired with youthful idealism - which older cynics might interpret as naivety - Tiernan believes that story-telling has the capacity to change things. "It can be powerful. I want to do something that's more than just funny. Having moments that are dramatic as well seems more interesting. There is a story about a provocative comedian who caused a riot one night at a theatre. The next morning the owner of the theatre said to him, 'I didn't want you to change the architecture.' I'd love to do that. I want people to come to the theatre to see *The Phantom of the Opera* the night after I've played there and think, 'this isn't right. Shouldn't the stage be over there?'"

Autobiography endows Tiernan's material with a special force. "I use the stage to exorcise personal frustrations. Because I invest so much of myself in the act, people can sense I'm not bullshitting. But," he adds, anxious to dispel any impression of pomposity, "I'm not Gandhi. I'm more like Gazza."

The story-tellers are just part of a growing "anti-stand-up" movement. Character comedians like Al Murray's Pub Landlord and Johnny Vegas have been a popular alternative for a while, but now deliberately alienating acts such as Simon Munnery's *League Against Tedium* are also emerging to kick against cosy-glow, "have you heard the one about?" comedy. In addition, there is an ever-increasing band of Vic and Bob-style surrealists, led by such defiant absurdist as The Mighty Boosh (winners of the Perrier Best Newcomer Award last summer) and Universal Grinding Wheel.

"What we're doing is a reaction," says Julian Barratt, one half of The Mighty Boosh. "We're trying to subvert comedy by reacting against that general approach of, 'hey, where are you from?' Most stand-up is incredibly boring to sit through. It's time for people to do something else."

For all these radical developments, re-



Tommy Tiernan: has emerged as a standard-bearer for the new breed of story-tellers

Retna

actionary forces are still abroad, eager to cash in on the Nineties boom in mass consumption comedy. Many provincial towns now boast mega-comedy-clubs attached to restaurants and bars which demand an exclusive menu of gag-meisters. "Some venues don't let comedians do any more than 18 minutes," laments Smith. "They feel like a restaurant business with a passing interest in comedy. The comedians' job there is to keep people laughing while they're buying more beer. The punters are often drunk and so have a shorter attention-span. They only want knob gags. But those places are more indicative of the state of the themed

restaurant than the state of comedy."

Industry insiders also warn that the move towards story-telling may merely be a flavour of the month. "There's one word for it: fashion," says Iain McCallum, a PR consultant who has worked with Tiernan and Byrne. "It's a cyclical thing. A year ago, people were really into staccato, gag-a-minute stand-up. Then Eddie Izzard established a trend which influenced an entire generation of younger comics on the way up. Some have succeeded in moulding it in their own style, whilst others look like cheap copies. Who's to say that all of a sudden another comedian with a totally different style

won't be crowned the new king of comedy? Then five years down the line the question will be 'why is the story-telling comedian a thing of the past?'"

Tiernan is equally wary, offering his own cautionary footnote to those obsessed with comedy trend-spotting. "Funny is funny. And whatever school a comedian is from, in the end we're all going to be found dead alone in a hotel-room in Australia. That's our destiny. Room 303 awaits us all."

Tommy Tiernan, Bruce Morton and Ed Byrne are all currently touring nationwide and at a variety of venues

## Why, Mr Darcy. You're black

Don't believe your eyes. These days, photographs can be deceptive. The entrants in this year's Citibank competition have turned that to their advantage. By Rachel Halliburton



Yinka Shonibare's 'Diary of a Victorian Dandy, 17:00 hours' (1998)

WHAT WOULD you do if you wandered into a room where everyone had the same face? Would you react strongly if a television adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* showed Mr Darcy as a black man? How would you judge a someone if you stared into his eyes and then saw blood splattered across his cheek? And what kind of space haunts your imagination most - the frame within a frame, or the road that leads nowhere?

If you have never seriously addressed any of these questions, then your visual and conceptual world will be significantly stretched by the entries for this year's Citibank Private Bank Photography Prize. This is the third year of the award that charts the ever-evolving and controversial relationship between photography and art. The success of the two former winners comes as a retrospective slap in the face for protesters like John Ruskin, the 19th-century's first serious opponent of photography as art. In 1997, the panel of judges was seduced by Richard Billingham's starkly unglamorous portrayal of poverty within his own family, while in 1998 they were captivated by Andreas Gursky's vision of a soulless, alienated human-race, dwarfed by a barren world.

We live in an era which has gone from the same concept that "the camera never lies", to the cynical and knowing realisation that "photography always manipulates". The five photographers shortlisted this

year invite the viewer to reveal to that knowledge - usually by mixing visual vocabularies so that references to Hogarth are linked to statements about racism, while a snap of a beer-'y' kebabs' night out echoes photographer Nan Goldin's portrayals of transvestism.

Paul M Smith's photos are the most disturbing. In his sequence, *Make My Night*, they beckon the onlooker into the riotous carnival of male bonding down-the-pub. In one photo a man wears a condom on his head, sticking two fingers up his nose. In another three men piss into a urinal, gesticulating with one finger each at the photographer. These look like the photos of a man who thinks only with his penis - crude,

lewd and defiantly snapshot - until you firstly notice that all the faces are the face of the photographer. Suddenly the photographs take on a new dimension. Still flaunting their laddishness, they can be seen either as a sophisticated comment on the way the individual's identity is subsumed into a group, or as a surreal manifestation of solipsism.

Yinka Shonibare also plays a central role in his own photographs, that first appeared before London viewers in a poster campaign on the underground. *Curry of Victorian Dandy* is a mixture of 19th-century camp and formality, a series of posed photos depicting a day in the life of a fop at the height of Her Majesty's Em-

pire. Their glorious self-consciousness is all out there, the Victorian society they depict, but the most important element is the fact that their central character is black. Their reflection of Hogarth's *A Rakes Progress* adds to their satirical value, but where Hogarth relies on internal tensions and imagery to convey their message, here much of the irony stems from the outside tension of the onlooker's 20th-century re-evaluation of the importance of the black man in our society.

Go on and look into the eyes of any of Richard Dijkstra's portraits, and you find yourself confronted with a simplicity that simultaneously confounds. Dijkstra is most celebrated for her photographs of gawky ado-

lescents facing the camera from beaches across Europe and North America - and has continued this direct confrontation with awkwardness, photographing young men after they have just emerged blood-smeared from bull-fights, or women immediately after they have given birth. Portraiture here is not presentation of the subject - it is more like an invasion.

Alex Hartley and Augusto Alves da Silva round off the list of competitors, both playing games with the onlooker's sense of location. Hartley's most famous work, *Viewer*, traps a minimalist white gallery inside a giant slide-viewer which - are you following this? - itself is displayed inside the gallery. This visual pun on the viewing space inside the viewing space plays with ghostly lighting effects and dimension.

Da Silva presents a more interesting situation - a series of photographs of a mountain road taken at intervals of 10 metres. The viewer is surrounded by the road, which is projected from in front and behind. The point of this road is not that it is going anywhere - rather it is the subtle shifts in the scenery which show it to be in a state of Heraclitan flux.

The Citibank Photography Prize is at the Photographers' Gallery, 5 and 8 Great Portland St, London WC2, from 6 February: the winner will be announced on 9 March

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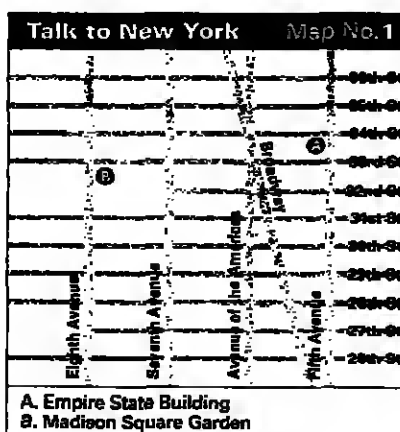
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THE INDEPENDENT



# Do you want to be in my gang?

Tony Grounds' new drama series about a group of fortysomething men, starring Ray Winstone, should further boost his reputation as one of television's most distinctive voices. Not bad for a bloke who started out working in a pub. By Clive King

With more bemusement than bitterness, Tony Grounds recalls spending a year of his childhood living in fear of his teacher. "I was only eight," recalls the television writer, now 40. "Any minor misdeed and he would whack you with this big yardstick. I never got to go back and beat him up, so in a way I suppose this is my revenge."

The opening episode of the BBC2 drama *Births, Marriages and Deaths*, to be broadcast on 22 February, depicts a group of fortysomething buddies paying a drunken visit to the headmaster who terrorised them as children.

Grounds is a warm, easygoing character, whose conversation demonstrates the same mixture of down-to-earth sincerity and sharp observation that characterises his work. The teacher-bashing incident is the catalyst for an epic tale of three families struggling to keep the lid on a Pandora's Box of terrible secrets. Ray Winstone, the writer's best friend since they met at West Ham matches in their teens, leads a strong cast that also includes Phil Davies, Mark Strong and Maggie O'Neill. Grounds wrote the part of Alan, the Jack-the-Lad leader of a pack of three lifelong mates, especially for his pal.

Alan, a petulant hully who lords it over his less successful friends, is not the most flattering role to bestow. "Alan is Ray without the charm," explains Grounds. "After the read-through he turned to me and said: 'Well, if I don't get this right after 40 years of rehearsal...' He's aware of the similarities. Ray is brash, in your face, he wants to be the leader. When you go out with Ray you have to accept that he's in charge; you go where he says. But you want to, as it's always great fun."

Alan's put-upon pals are Graham (Davies), who lives in a council flat and works as a rat-catcher, and Post Office employee Terry (Strong). "Alan's big, flash house is at the top of a hill, with Terry's semi half-way down and the council estate at the bottom," notes Grounds, who grew up in a working class area of Ilford, and arrived at his current Enfield home via a council flat in Camberwell. "It's not some great polemic about the state of Britain today, but it does have a political dimension. One of the ideas was to strike the final nail in the coffin of Thatcherite Man, to see him destroyed by his own selfishness and greed. Alan represents that, with Graham as more of an old-style working man and Terry as the caring new man type."

Grounds is reluctant to locate himself in this neat trinity of contemporary masculinity. "I'm the writer, so there's a little bit of me in all of them," he admits, but he feels the greatest affinity with Terry, who takes on the responsibility for a ready-made family when he weds a mother-of-two. Grounds is step-father to his wife Caroline's two children, Lauren and Louis. They have one young son of their own, six-year-old Oscar.

"I suppose all original writing



Tony Grounds (right) with Ray Winstone: "Television is probably the most significant invention of this century"; top right: 'Births, Marriages and Deaths'

comes from somewhere in your own experience," he says. He cites the example of his acclaimed 1998 drama *Our Boy*, which starred Winstone as a distraught father failing to come to terms with the loss of his son. "I started writing that two days after my father died. Although in the film it's the son who dies, it's about fathers and sons and grieving for the end of that relationship."

Having built his reputation with comedy dramas such as *Gone to the Dogs*, Grounds believes he "turned a corner" with *Our Boy*. "I proved I could do other things besides comedy. [But] all good drama runs tragedy and comedy side-by-side. That's how you really move an audience, by making them feel for someone they've just been laughing at."

Leaving school "with a few O-

Levels", Grounds's first job was in a pub. Then one of the regulars offered him the Holy Grail of the early Eighties - a job in the City. "I was pretty good at yelling," he laughs, summing up his three years as a trader in cocoa futures. A leaflet pushed through the door of his Camberwell flat alerted him to the Old Vic Youth Theatre. He became part of a vintage crop of young hope-

fuls that included Sophie Thompson, Linda Harris and, most influentially, the director Oliver Parker.

"Ollie was a real inspiration to me. He encouraged me to leave the City and go to the Central School of Speech and Drama. He even filled in the writer's eyes to a different way of life, richer in both senses of the word. "I thought we were pretty

classy, until I met Ollie. His family lived in a big house in Kensington with pictures on the wall that were not cut out of magazines. Their attitude was whatever you want in life, just go out there and do it. My own parents always played it very safe."

For a few years after he left Central, Grounds became a secondary school drama teacher. When the actress Camille Coduri saw some



plays he had written for his young charges, she persuaded him to write something "for grown-ups". Shortly after its premiere at the Lyric in Hammersmith, *Made in Spain*, a rambunctious comedy of bad manners set on the Costa del Sol, was snapped up by ITV.

"Overnight, I was a television writer and got offered work on existing shows. My first meeting at *EastEnders*, there were all these guys around the table with cowboy boots and long hair. I thought, these are real writers, they've got cords on. Mental note: buy some cords. Then the producer came in and went: 'Right, episode 328. Dot confronts Nick, episode 329, fire in the café.' Suddenly all the writers jumped up and started shouting episode numbers. They all knew the form so I ended up with something like episode 332. Dot loses a shoe. I thought I was the seller, not the buyer."

After a couple of episodes, Grounds washed his hands of soap. He had a go at *The Bill*, but found the cop show an equally uninteresting genre. "Then I did this thing called *Chancer* with Clive Owen, and again that was fairly hard. Luckily, Ted Charles at Central Television asked if I had any ideas for my own series. So I said: 'I've got this great idea about Jim Broadbent and a three-legged greyhound.' I'd been to the dogs the night before: it was the only thing I could think of." The six-part *Gone to the Dogs* was commissioned on the spot, and became one of the big hits of 1991.

Viewers hoping for a second helping were to be disappointed. "I was offered *Gone to the Dogs 2*, but instead I asked to do a wholly new, but no less unsophisticated romp. Something contemporary, but set in a strange almost Dickensian world of ghosts and villains and garden centres." One of the unsung masterworks of Nineties television, *Gone to Seed* flopped. "I watch it now, and I can see it was a bit too dense in places, too tangled."

He has two feature films in development, but Grounds wants to continue writing for the small screen. He is passionate about the power of the medium, if disheartened by the proliferation of game shows and join-the-dots dramas. "Telly is important," he insists. "Along with the computer, it's probably the most significant invention of this century. Everybody watches it, so don't just give them chewing gum. I'm not saying we shouldn't have soaps or quiz shows, but we should also have fantastic drama."

'Births, Marriages and Deaths' is on BBC2 on 22 February

## Even pianists get the blues

VIDEO WATCH  
MIKE HIGGINS

SEQUEIRA COSTA is a highly successful teacher of top-flight pianists. As a player he's in that bracket too. In his Wigmore Hall recital last Saturday, his modest, intent posture and economical hand movements made much of his programme seem easy, yet not facile.

If he held back from the wildest extremes in the first two movements of Chopin's "Funeral March" Sonata, he still put over a sense of breathless urgency, and his feathery, intermittently accented touch in the final movement suggested a storm that never quite broke. Less effective were the melodious middle sections of the second and third movements, which he shaped in a surprisingly angular way, as if his

feelings had almost gone numb with over-exposure. Well, you can't win them all, and a pianist who captures the innocent wonder of Schumann's *Waldscenen*, as he did, is very unusual. But why did he spoil his exquisitely delicate playing in "Vogel als Prophet", the most celebrated piece in the collection, by hastening through its silences, that create such an essential sense of awe?

The second half of Sequeira Costa's programme suggested a link between Schumann and Chabrier, and Chabrier and Debussy, whose *Suite bergamasque* could be viewed as an aristocratic French equivalent of Schumann's evocation of sylvan enchantment. He tossed off Chabrier's

**CLASSICAL**  
SEQUEIRA COSTA  
CHRISTINA ORTIZ  
WIGMORE HALL/  
ELIZABETH HALL  
LONDON

devilish *Bourrée fantasque*, in which Wagnerian chromatics go skipping gaily to the operaetta, without a suspicion of undue pressure, and let the *Idylle* - whose wonderful weirdness is all in the subsidiary voices - speak for itself.

Some real collector's rarities at end didn't have much to say, but were nice to hear just once. They were *Nenia*, by the Italian protégé of Liszt, Giovanni Sgambati, a

Scherzo by that unlikely Glaswegian, Eugen d'Albert, and a *ballade* by one of Sequeira Costa's own teachers, Jose Vianna da Motta, in whose memory he founded a piano competition in Lisbon.

The Brazilian-born pianist Cristina Ortiz made hardly any concessions to the box office but still pulled in a fair-sized audience to her recital at the Elizabeth Hall on Tuesday. In a programme including Poulenc, Moussis and Stenhammar, the only well-known work was Grieg's *Ballade*, which she attacked with great energy, though the finale seemed full of effort rather than expansive and noble.

Ortiz's special talent for spirited characterisation and rhythmic zest

were best shown in a group of pieces by the Brazilian composer Fructuoso Vianna, who died in 1976, aged 80. She had a field day with their enterprising keyboard textures and tangy harmonies, and in one of the seven *Miniaturas sobre temas brasileiros* she even had to yell out street cries to add a bit of local colour, which she did with a real ring of authenticity. The wild final dance of Vianna's *Corta-Jaca* was exhilarating, and perhaps Ortiz should have put it right at the end of the evening, after another group of pieces by Vianna's contemporary and compatriot, Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez, as these were less striking and came as a bit of an anti-climax.

ADRIAN JACK

Down Where The Buffalo Go (15)  
Midnight Movie (15)  
BBC Films. Available to buy now  
£10.99 each.

QUITE WHY the BBC thinks these two dramas or indeed most of the other programmes it is releasing in this series qualify as film is a mystery. Some of them are very impressive: I'm thinking of the rather sweet *This Could Be The Last Time*, starring Joan Plowright, which was broadcast last September and, in particular, the adaptation of Iain Banks's *The Crow Road*. But a four-and-a-half television series is never going to be thought of as a film.

Down Where The Buffalo Go is case in point: it's nothing more than an overlong Play For Today. And what an oddity it is. First broadcast in 1988, it stars Harvey Keitel as Carl, a shore patrolman at the Holy Loch Polaris submarine base. By the time we meet him, Carl's marriage to a local woman is already on the rocks. He's better off than his brother-in-law Willie, though: he's estranged from his wife and kids and about to lose his job. The pace is funereal, the tone equally downcast, but more disappointing still, director Ian Knox has no idea how to exploit Harvey Keitel's simmering presence. Neither does playwright Peter McDougall quite know what to do with the promising material. *Local Hero* it is not.

It seems remarkable that this year we'll be commemorating the



Harvey Keitel: a sadly wasted presence

fifth anniversary of Dennis Potter's death. Famously, the last months of his life were dedicated to his cheeky suggestion that the BBC and Channel co-produce his final two dramas, *Koroviev* and *Cold Lazarus*. As a result, less ambitious Potter fare, such as *Midnight Movie*, was easily overlooked. First transmitted in 1994, it seems at first glance to be Potter-by-numbers. Jim Carter, a country solicitor, has acquired a country residence for film producer Brian Dennehy and his trophy wife, Louise Germaine. As Carter finds himself drawn to Germaine (sound familiar?), it turns out that the house provided the backdrop for the most famous film of Germaine's mother, a Sixties starlet who died in mysterious circumstances.

Potter seems to be in third gear here. Nevertheless, there's still enough gusto in the direction (Potter's own) and ham in the performances to speed this drama along.

## THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

**Today** On this day in 1893 Edison's "Black Maria" in New Jersey, the first film studio was completed, at a total cost of \$637. Covered in black roofing-paper, it saved on artificial light by twirling round to face the sun. 1929 saw another film landmark: The Broadway Melody from MGM premiered in Hollywood, the first musical with an original score. It launched the American luvvies' anthem, "Give My Regards to Broadway".

**Tomorrow** And another movie milestone from 1893: the first close-up. Entitled *Fred Ott's Sneeze*, it featured a moving scene in which Fred Ott sneezes. In 1709 Alexander Selkirk was rescued after four years on a desert island, little knowing that he would be reincarnated in Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, which in turn led to hundreds of sequels in books (such as *Dog Crusoe*) and films (*Robinson Crusoe on Mars*).

**Wednesday** Composed by 16-year-old Euphemia Alten under the masculine pseudonym Arthur de Lull, the finger-exercising "Chopsticks" was registered in 1877 under the title of "The Celebrated Chop Waltz". In 1958 Paavo Berglund was conducting a piano concerto by Usko Merilainen when he managed to break his neck through shaking his head with too much hrio.

**Thursday** In 1928 there were fierce protests by Nazis in Munich against US singer Josephine Baker on the incontestable grounds that she was black; a year later she was banned for "indecent behaviour" (ie, she was still black).

**Friday** 12-year-old Charles Dickens began his first ever day job: sticking labels onto bottles.

**Saturday** Christopher Marlowe, who helps out Will in *Shakespeare in Love*, was born in 1564.

**Sunday** *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* was awarded a swingeing A Certificate in 1938: the witch was judged to be too scary for a U. Adolphe Sax, who designed both the saxophone and a mortar which could fire a 550-ton shell, died in 1894.

JONATHAN SALE



# NETWORK

## Tell me another one

Beware: truth and lies are virtually indistinguishable on the Internet. By Tamsin Todd



The story was too good to resist. In a row at Christmas, Hillary Clinton had punched Bill, claimed the Drudge Report (the Internet site that broke the Clinton/Lewinsky story). Editors at three UK dailies - the Daily Mail, The Express and The Times - snapped it up and printed it on Boxing Day. But had they known the origin of the story, they might have thought twice about running it. The source? None other than that notorious US supermarket rag the National Enquirer, best known for its exposés of alien abductions, Elvis sightings and monster babies.

It wasn't the first time newspapers had been duped by the Internet. Last June, an Associated Press reporter accidentally posted an obituary for Bob Hope on the wire service's website. During the 20 minutes it remained on the site, a US Congressman read it and eulogised Hope on the House floor, prompting other news organisations to pick up the story.

Had this happened just once, it would look like sloppy journalism. But so many instances of Internet-related misinformation suggest a larger problem: interpreting and evaluating Internet sources is difficult. Unlike print publications, online publications often don't list authors or date of publication. E-mails get sent under fictitious names and websites appear and disappear overnight. Web searches produce

hundreds of thousands of sites related to a topic - without measuring the reliability of the sources. How much of what you read on the Internet should you believe?

It's a problem that two new books address. In the recently published Columbia Guide to Online Style (Columbia University Press, \$17.50), Janice Walker and Todd Taylor recommend standard styles for students, scholars and writers to follow when they produce or cite online sources such as databases, discussion lists and professional sites. The Modern Language Association of America (MLA) added similar style guidelines to the fourth edition of its MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (1995), and the fifth edition of the MLA Handbook, scheduled for publication this spring, includes more extensive guidelines that are summarised on the MLA's website (www.mla.org).

Both guides recommend that scholars give more information than they would when citing print publications. For instance, a citation for an article in an online journal would, like a print citation, include the author's name, the article title, the name and issue of the journal, and the date the article was written. But it goes further to include updates and details of recent accessing. The idea is to give enough information so that all sources can be tracked. As Joseph Gibaldi, director of book acquisitions for the MLA and author of the latest MLA Handbook, says: "For example, it's useful to have the name of a [site's] sponsoring or-



Reports of a bit of slap and tickle between the Clintons were unsubstantiated

ganisation, so that if the site does change a researcher can find the site through a search engine." If Matt Drudge had documented his sources according to the guidelines

*How much of what you read on the Internet should you really believe?*

in either of these books, Hillary may never have hit Bill in print.

Will better standards for citation fix the problem of Internet misinformation? Or is this an instance of academics with little online experience trying to impose archaic standards on a medium that thrives

specifically because it is transient? Not so, say Walker and Taylor: "The pre-eminent goal of style is to support the continuous, communal, and cross-generational process of knowledge building."

The Columbia Guide grew out of scholars' need to cite research they were doing on the Internet. Its predecessor was a four-page style sheet that Walker developed in 1994. At the time Walker, a graduate student in composition and rhetoric at the University of South Florida and editor of the online Journal of Composition Theory, was doing research on MOOs (virtual environments).

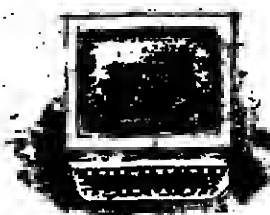
Very few of her sources existed in print. "I took existing forms that had been used to cite print and tried to translate those into electronic source citations," she says. The result was the Walker Style Sheet. In March 1995, the Alliance for Computers and Writing voted to endorse

the style sheet. Soon after, Walker was bombarded with requests from libraries, universities and publishers for permission to use it.

Walker explains that the Columbia Guidelines do more than simply transfer print standards to the Web. Rather, new citation forms have developed to reflect the new medium's idiosyncrasies - like multiple authorship. "New forms are emerging" on the Web that don't fit our pre-conceived forms," says Walker. "We have to come up with new forms for thinking about them."

But citation takes time, and Web sources may change, or even disappear. Is it worth the effort? Walker thinks so. "Documenting sources lends credibility. We shouldn't only document sources that are permanent. Aristotle documented sources that we no longer have. We should document whatever seems worthwhile, and if it disappears, too bad."

### BYTES ANDY OLDFIELD



SUN MICROSYSTEMS last week unveiled its Jini software, a Java-based technology that allows easy plug and play of network devices from computers to printers, digital cameras, mobile phones, and intelligent domestic appliances such as light switches or washing machines that can be remotely diagnosed for problems by technicians.

A Jini-enabled device works by announcing itself to any network, which will understand what kind of device is plugged in and what software drivers it needs. "This is the 21st century computing model," said Ed Zander, chief operating officer. Sun has made Jini's software source code available over the Internet, using a similar model to the way it has made Java available. The code is free to developers who are working in research. Commercial users will pay Sun a licensing fee, for the use of its Jini logo to cover the trademark costs, of either 10 cents per unit or \$250,000 per year, per product line.

Microsoft earlier this month announced the extension of its Universal Plug and Play initiative, extending the capabilities introduced in Windows 95 to wider networks.

MARC ANDREESSEN, executive vice president of Netscape Communications, has agreed to become chief technology officer at America Online when regulatory approval of AOL's \$4.2bn acquisition of Netscape is given, according to The Wall Street Journal. Andreesen, while a 22-year-old student, created the first practical browser to allow easy access to the Web. After co-founding Netscape, he was its charismatic chief strategist. He is expected to report directly to Steve Case, AOL's CEO, and take charge of a development team whose brief

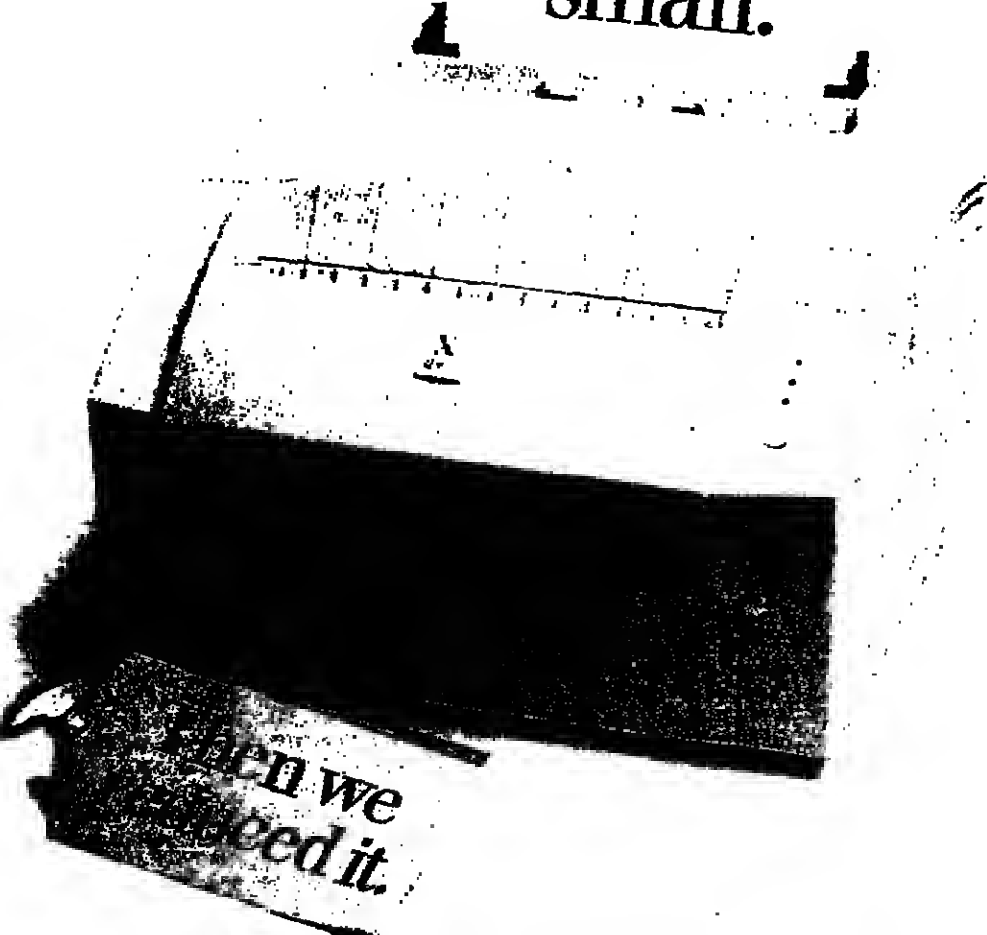
is to keep AOL and Netscape at the forefront of online developments.

INTEL SAID it would modify its plans to include identification features built in to its forthcoming Pentium III chip after privacy activists called for Intel products to be boycotted last week. The chips include encryption technology that makes e-commerce more secure, but could also be used to track Internet users and their browsing habits. The Electronic Privacy Information Center, JunkBusters and Privacy International said that Intel's planned identification features will significantly reduce the level of privacy available to computer users.

Intel responded by saying it will offer a software patch so the security feature can be turned off when a PC with a Pentium III is first booted up.

MICROSOFT WAS ordered last week to hand over to Department of Justice lawyers e-mails that undercut one of its key defences in the antitrust case against it. The government argues that Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser was "welded" on to the operating system to harm rivals Netscape. But Microsoft executive James Allchin has testified that browser and operating system are inseparable. However, Microsoft engineer David D'Souza found otherwise. His e-mail warned that this finding "may not be useful" to the company's case. Allchin will be cross-examined this week.

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IF YOU have studied Web design for very long, there is one thing that you cannot have failed to notice, it is predominantly rectangular. This should hardly come as a surprise, since every design you see on the Web is being placed into the rectangular canvas of the browser window.

However, there is more to this predisposition towards right angles than the shape of the vehicle transmitting it. The most popular tools at our disposal for the layout of content on the Web - tables and frames - also perpetuate this four-sided tendency. This is simply an inescapable fact when you are dealing with layout on the Web.

Of course, print design is primarily executed on rectangular fields of paper which also has a traditionally quadratic bias, but the major difference between layout on the Web and layout in print is the predictability of the appearance of the final product. With print-based output, designers know the exact dimensions that their work will occupy.

However, on the Web - with its expandable windows, its unpredictable screen resolutions and its variable font sizes - you will have a better chance of predicting the price of Internet stocks than of predicting the final appearance of a Web design. You know that your design must fit into a rectangle, but will it be wide enough? Tall enough? Too skinny? Too short?

Never fear. Layout on the Web is not nearly as chaotic as it might first appear. There is a tried and tested concept in graphic design that can be applied to the Web: the grid.

The design grid. The design, or layout, grid is used to structure the content being presented.

Allen Huriburt writes in his

### WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

You cannot have failed to notice that Web design is by and large rectangular

book *Layout: The Design of the Printed Page*: "A designer's grid organises specific content in relation to the precise space it will occupy. When the grid works, it will permit the designer to create many different layouts containing a variety of elements within the framework of the grid. When used in the design of a publication, an advertising campaign or a series, it will give a sense of sequential continuity even where there is considerable variation of the content of each unit."

"If used properly, a layout grid identifies where specific types of content are to be placed on the page and then provides continuity between different pages."

"This format works to the reader's advantage as it includes consistent areas on the page where they know to look for particular kinds of content such as titles, illustrations, text, page numbers and so forth."

This works fine when applied

to print layout, where the grid does not grow or shrink at the whim of the viewer or the limitations of his/her equipment. How do we apply the design grid to our website? First, we have to understand the way in which layout behaves on the Web.

#### Types of Web layout

There are basically two parts to all layouts on the Web. There is the content area, with navigation, titles, graphics and text. In other words, the stuff you are interested in. Then there is filler. Whether the filler is just empty space or designs to fill the void, it contains no content. The balance between content and filler is crucial to creating attractive Web layout.

Based on this balance, we can identify four broad categories of Web layout:

• **Unrestrained:** The content is allowed to stretch horizontally from the left edge to the right edge of the window and vertically down to the limits of the content being presented. This eliminates all filler. Web usability pundit Jacob Nielsen uses unrestrained layout in his site, [www.useit.com](http://www.useit.com), which allows the content to sprawl across the screen at the discretion of the viewer.

• **Fixed width:** The content is given a set margin either on the left, right or both sides, keeping the horizontal length of the content to a fixed width. Wired News ([www.wired.com/news](http://www.wired.com/news)) restrains the width of its content area on the right side, giving it a fixed width of 610 pixels with white space filling in additional area to the right.

• **Fixed height:** The content area is given a set margin either on the top, the bottom or both sides, restraining its vertical length to a fixed height. The content is therefore forced to scroll horizontally. This is rarely done, since it is usually considered advantageous to

maximise the height that the content can appear in. In fact, this category is so rare, that I couldn't find a good example of this technique except for a small site I set up for my daughter's birthday pictures ([www.webbedenvironments.com/jocelyn](http://www.webbedenvironments.com/jocelyn)).

• **Fixed size:** The height and width of the display area are restrained to a fixed size. This can be accomplished either by surrounding one central frame with other frames that will expand around it, as with the Portishead website (address: [www.portishead.co.uk](http://www.portishead.co.uk)) or by opening a new browser window to a fixed size, as with Glass Dog ([glassdog.com](http://glassdog.com)).

Applying the grid. Design grids can be created to fit into any of these categories, but each has its own inherent problems depending on the size of the browser window. With an unrestrained layout, you often find that the columns of text stretch uncomfortably wide for reading purposes. Restraining the width of the content area can create uncomfortably large areas of negative space in the design, while restraining the height of the content area discriminates against visitors who have larger monitors, making them feel very uncomfortable.

So now that we know what we are up against, how do we use this information to produce an online design that looks good regardless of the venue?

The advantages of the grid structure are easily applied to Web pages using tables and frames to create the grid layout. Next week, we will look at how you can use tables and frames to create design grids to use on the Web.

You can e-mail comments or queries to Jason at [indy\\_webdesign@mindspring.com](mailto:indy_webdesign@mindspring.com)

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# Squaring up to the US giants

British Web designers are facing fierce competition from abroad. Do they have an independent future? By Colin Donald

DOES THE British Web design industry have an independent future? A series of acquisitions in the past year by foreign buyers has established a new tier of super-agencies, mainly American, in the UK. As a result, the British industry, mostly made up of much smaller companies, is now facing much tougher competition from well-funded and multi-skilled rivals.

Leading the way was San Francisco's Razorfish with its purchase of CHBI in May. This was followed by Agency.com increasing its stake in Online Magic to 100 per cent. A flurry of further deals followed: US Web bought e-commerce specialist Xplora; IXL bought Denovo and Green Cathedral; and the new CHBI Razorfish merged with Sunbather in October. Even the backing of a major UK owner may be no protection. Traffic Interactive, part of Abbott Mead Vickers advertising, has been taken over by US giant Omnicom.

Not all the buyers are from the US, though. Britain's Real Time Studios, backed by the European media group Havas, bought up AMX Digital. Havas itself took a 40 per cent stake in Web designers Zinc.

The rush to buy here is partly an outgrowth of what has already happened in the US. The 1,000-strong consultancy USWeb has grown over the last four years by buying dozens of American Internet companies. It bought up Xplora for its electronic commerce skills and blue-chip clients, such as BBC Worldwide. IXL's UK purchases were part of an expansion into Germany, Italy and Spain. Razorfish wanted an in to British design talent. Agency.com already had a significant stake in Online Magic and after the takeover Online Magic pulled out of New York to focus exclusively on Europe.

Nick Jones, an analyst at Jupiter Communications, says it is difficult to draw up a definitive list of major

British Web design agencies as many major studios are part of a larger advertising or marketing agency. But he and other observers agree that the number of larger independents is declining, either via foreign acquisition or developing closer relations with British ad agencies.

Those who have sold say they did so to gain more funding and access to the expertise and contacts afforded by the foreign corporations. CHBI had been open to offers for 18 months before the Razorfish deal. Its directors were anticipating consolidation in the market, and knew they'd have to find finance for new staff and to invest in such technologies as interactive television.

"There was a lack of investors in the UK taking the market seriously," says Mark Curtis, of CHBI. He has no regrets about teaming up with a US partner. "We can draw on international case studies and on staff worldwide to convince clients

we can handle a job." Razorfish also helped with access to funds to merge with Sunbather and the expertise to manage the integration easily.

Malcolm Garret, a founding partner at AMX Digital, says his firm talks

Consequences for the remaining independent UK Web houses may be far-reaching. Even the larger ones face competition from British-based rivals that are now divisions of enormous communications corporations. Online Magic and Razorfish-CHBI-Sunbather, for instance, share a common investor, Omnicom. One of the world's largest advertising organisations, it has an annual revenue of \$3.1bn, employs more than 27,000 staff and includes among its clients Apple and Nike.

What such giants have at their disposal is more than enough capital to invest in the latest technologies and to ride out any worldwide downturn with plenty of specialists to offer even the largest clients all their Internet solutions. Much of the British industry operates on a very small scale. Companies of about a dozen people are typical, and many of these operate in loose associations with even smaller specialists.

Can UK independents compete? Two independents see reasons to be optimistic. Richard Davies, managing director of Good Technology, is sceptical of how much the Americans will benefit from their takeovers. "You're buying people without much of a client base. It's a short-cut without much life in it, as the people may leave for British hot shops."

Alex Bennett, business director of Bluewave, says that what the Americans are buying is an understanding of the local market. He points out that the US companies often have clients that in turn have European subsidiaries, so they need a European network to service the clients' subsidiaries, too.

But how can smaller British companies square up to the US giants? Good Technology aims to compete purely on its strength in new media production, rather than trying to be a "one-stop shop" for all of a clients' requirements. Davies compares the

positioning of his company with producers of television commercials. They establish strong relationships with advertising agencies to get access to big-name clients for whom they can do top-quality work for a good margin. That leaves the agencies with responsibility for strategy, brand development and the planning of online ad campaigns.

Some, meanwhile, are already taking the battle to American shores. Bluewave has recently set up a New York office, with its managing director, Richard Latham, in charge. Bluewave already does business with the delivery firm TNT and the European division of Reebok, which should open doors in New York. "British design," he says, "is already a worldwide export."

However, Nick Jones cautions, when major British software firms opened offices in Silicon Valley, they found they were "just another software company" in the US.

British design is a global export, so some are taking the battle to American shores

## MY TECHNOLOGY

# Why I prefer to pick up my dog hairs by hand

The science of technology is geared to perfection. But what's wrong with human failing, asks John Hegley

Someone heard me singing a poem about how much I love picking up dog hairs and sent me an advanced dog hair retrieval system. As it gets the job done quicker than Sellotape, you can say it is a technological advance. But it's a mockery of technology. Same with the dust buster. It's a bit stupid and a bit imperfect. Technology seems to be geared towards perfection and I like its failings. They will get perfect, but I think in imperfection lies our salvation. The science of technological perfection doesn't necessarily create human perfection.



'I get contemplative joy from picking up individual hairs,' says the poet John Hegley

I get contemplative joy from picking up individual hairs. I am not saying that technology can't be a thoughtful experience, or that there isn't a Zen of working on the Net. However, it seems advances in technology are more in the area of human development than human communication.

However imperfect, the process of picking up dog hair is very enjoyable. Perhaps people can relate to Sellotape, certainly they can understand its role as a tool. The same with a pen. There is something charming about the dust buster. I like the word and it makes a good noise. One should have some love for it because it throws up an interesting word.

But I don't understand how a computer works, so to some extent I'm alienated from the process. Why haven't I got a computer? If I wanted to write something now, I can. I don't always set out with the idea of writing, it is not a formalised action, it chooses you. If this happens, I might buy a pen and paper, but I couldn't carry around a computer. Maybe I am just being stuck in the mud. Although there must be certain advances one should accept. I look for a middle way.

It's not necessarily about whether something is more efficient, or even useful. Take me not using a computer. It means I often lose bits of paper. However, I have not tried writing on a computer because the old system seems to work. It's not unlike using a computer when I am writing a poem - I cut out words and paste. Are people to lose the ability to handwrite? Is the only thing they are to do to sign their signature? It seems to me a loss of identity.

It's good to know you have put some work in to the production of something. When I was in Lancaster the other day, there was an old coach trip advertised, and you just knew it would take a day to do a journey that now takes an hour and a half. There is something more significant about being aware of the physical space of the journey. A journey that takes longer is more significant, but it takes longer, so you do less journeys. You have to weigh

it up - quality not quantity. I am not dominated by the technology. For instance, I have a mobile phone. I don't always answer. I try to be very discreet and not annoy people. It almost feels I am being an example by talking quietly. There have been occasions when I have been playing a song and not been able to use my tape recorder, instead rung up on my mobile and recorded it on to the answering phone. That seems like messing around

with the technology. I suppose the common work is sitting on the photocopier and copying your arse. In general, however, I think people don't consider enough. People tend to take it on blindly, adopting what is there unquestioningly.

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

John Hegley's latest book of poems, 'Beyond our Kennel', is published by Methuen

# Downloading democracy

THE INTERNET is the battleground - the lines are formed of combatants with browsers, servers and web-authoring tools at the ready.



CHRIS GULKER

Internet-savvy citizens are already eyeing up the possibilities of online voting

This is not the tale of Indonesia vs Ireland, the strange attacks on East Timor websites hosted in Eire. No, this is a civil war, and it's breaking out in America. UK residents are probably tired of US events, especially the impeachment of the President. But this is a struggle that could affect every democracy on the planet.

The struggle pits elected officials, the agents of democracy by proxy, against the citizenry. The US Senate is the physical focus of the ruckus. There, a group of powerful politicians is trying to unseat a popularly-elected President for having a sexual liaison and lying about it.

Americans, while none too pleased with one William Jefferson Clinton, still want him, and Congress, to get on with the business of government. They also want Ken Starr to stop spending money on what increasingly looks like a partisan smear job. The theory is that there are better uses for \$30m than documenting a sleazy affair on the Library of Congress server for every school-age child to see.

Many feel that Clinton's no worse than his accusers. The House Judiciary Committee chairman, Henry Hyde, leader of the impeachment hearings, is no stranger to extramarital dalliance. Retired Republican Speaker Newt Gingrich was fined, not removed, for some dubious "fundraising".

In short, a group of Washington hallway insiders want to remove a popular President - his approval shot to its peak of 73 per cent the day the House of Representatives impeached him. The vote's clear division along party lines makes it clear to most Americans that the rhetoric about honour and preserving the country is just that, especially in light of the antics of the accusers.

And the citizens are fighting back, with ballots and packets. In the November elections, the Republicans lost ground, reducing their majority in Congress. Since then, there's been a banner-ad campaign in support of the President and a host of pro-Clinton websites has sprung up.

One site, Censure and Move On, collected 450,000 "signatures" and presented them at Representatives' offices before the impeachment vote. When that manoeuvre failed to impress our duly elected dignitaries, Censure and Move On's founders, Joan Blades and Wes Boyd, decided to hit the politicians where it would hurt the most - in the wallet.

Their site solicited pledges of campaign money to turn out politicians who had voted against popular opinion. In an unprecedented display of voter discontent, \$10m was pledged in just three weeks - larger by a factor of 10, than any other public plea for funds on the Internet to date.

Wired magazine gleefully

tracked the fray. Writer Jennifer Hattam, in an impeachment day piece entitled "Power to the People", summed it up: "This divide between public opinion and congressional action raises a question about the nature of representative democracy: Between elections, how much control do we have over our elected officials?"

And, indeed, there have long been rumblings about the nature of representative democracy on this side of the Atlantic. Richard Nixon became president over Hubert Humphrey, despite the fact that Humphrey garnered more of the popular vote than Nixon. The culprit was the archaic electoral college, an institution founded shortly after the war of independence. With no other means at hand, trusted riders were sent from every electoral district to carry the will of the people to the capital after each election.

In the 20th century, the electoral college was manipulated by politicians to deny the popular will. This lesson isn't lost on many Internet-savvy citizens, who are already eyeing online voting, among other possibilities.

And it hasn't helped the case of our representatives that a recent report found that the US Department of Defense can't account for property that it bought with \$22bn worth of tax dollars. How can our elected officials let so colossal a sum could go missing?

Every American would have to lose around 100 bucks to equal such a sum. Most of us would notice a missing c-note in a big hurry - so why can't our representatives keep our house in better order?

It's not that we want to get rid of politicians altogether - they're too amusing, and, besides, who do we kick out when things go badly? We're not likely to fire ourselves. But many do want politicians to heed the will of the people. Clinton has been one of the first presidents to continue campaigning, and polling, even after he was elected. He has seemed more responsive than the partisan politicians who impeached him. This is an old-fashioned showdown over who runs the country, and for whom.

And these first shots, fired on the Internet, are truly likely to be heard around the world.

E-mail Chris at [cg@gulker.com](mailto:cg@gulker.com)

## WEBSITES

BILL PANNIFER

**The Monster Motel**  
<http://trace.mtu.ac.uk/kota/motel/motel.html>  
Bundlerug, Bubbilbandink, the Three-headed Slipsloop and the Zimp are all currently in residence here in the youth wing of the trAce International Online Writing Community. The Monster Motel's multi-antenned guests spring from the fertile imaginations of young contributors, who can post images and descriptions in the motel's rooms for visitors to enjoy. So far input has been from the lower age groups and the beasts in question, if not exactly cuddly, are unlikely to strike terror. "Jekkenog is very hairy, but he's not that scary."

**Children's Express**  
<http://www.childrens-express.org/>  
Young people create serious journalism at this innovative news agency for writers and researchers aged eight to 18 and their stories appear regularly in national and local media. There are details here of the story production process, as well as plans for an online roundtable facility to assist the young writers in developing ideas. The site also offers background information for parents and for mainstream journalists seeking to commission work. The scheme began five years ago as a summer project for inner-city kids, and the charity now has bureaux in London, Birmingham, Sheffield and Newcastle.

**bittersweets.org**  
<http://www.bittersweets.org/about.html>  
Prose only, no poems please, is the rather defensive rule at this collaborative web site devoted to stories of lost love. Breaking up may be hard to do but afterwards you can reminisce about it here, adding your personal vignette of rejection or of a chance meeting further on down the road. There's a daily e-mail version for those needing

more frequent reminders of the transient nature of happiness: "I shuffled on to the place that would take me away from here and her, tears streaming behind my Ray-bans."

**Patron des internautes Catalans**  
<http://www.anlaviana.com/capella/>  
There appear to be at least two contenders for the title of Patron Saint of the Internet. At his Catalan-language site, Santa Tecla offers to intercede in problems with "El Windows" and "El Zip", and provides a confessional form, absolving users of various online sins including spamming and not paying for shareware. A rival

contender, says *HofWired*, is San Pedro Regalado, <http://www.dirrectoira.com/san-pedro/index.htm>, a priest whose gift (first noted in the 1500s) for appearing in several places at once makes him an ideal candidate for adoption by the net community. A group of Franciscan friars are submitting his name to the Vatican.

**The Museum of Soviet Calculators**  
<http://www.comcen.com.au/~ada/vie/slide/calculator/soviet.html>  
An indispensable asset for any planned economy, the pocket calculator was high on the development agenda in the former USSR. In 1974, under tremendous pressure, a team proudly delivered the famous Elektronika BS-04 to the Central Committee - though sceptics noted a Concordist-style resemblance to a Western machine made by Sharp. But much genuine ingenuity as well as nostalgia is in evidence here, with details of 1967's "Low-

Dimensions Electronic Computing Machine" and of the Russian abacus, or "schoty", still in use in the mid-90s. The site, a labour of love from an Australian obsessive, also features a catalogue of Russian batteries.

**All Day Breakfast**  
<http://www.angelfire.com/ok/cheerslove/>  
Cholesterol rules at this site celebrating the Great British Breakfast, with its chequered plastic tablecloth background, and an optional ashtray. There is a Greasy Spoon Hall of Fame with nominations from Nottingham to North Carolina, and expressions of regret for the passing of "the great motorway service café." A conversation archive draws on the newsgroup alt.2eggs.sausage.beans.tomatoes.2toast.largetea.cheerslove where Spam is often on the menu.

**Send interesting, quirky or even (at a pinch) cool site recommendations to [websites@dircom.co.uk](mailto:websites@dircom.co.uk)**



PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE  
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE CENTRE

CDSC is the part of the PHLS that undertakes surveillance of infection and provides assistance to Health Authorities and NHS Trusts in the event of outbreaks and other incidents of infection. There are eight Regional Units of the CDSC and these are based in the East, London and South East Regional Units.

The provision of IT support and development plays an essential part in the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the service and there are currently exciting opportunities for the right individuals to join the CDSC information team working with infectious disease surveillance data within the Regional Units.

Ideally, the successful candidates for these posts will possess a degree in an appropriate subject, experience in the installation and maintenance of a range of network and other software and hardware, preferably in relation to health.

## CDSC (EASTERN)

## INFORMATION MANAGER A&amp;C6

£19,240 - £24,268 inclusive of ADP allowance

Ref: CDSC/99/AO/1

CDSC (Eastern), based at the Institute of Public Health on the Addenbrookes Hospital site in Cambridge, is seeking to appoint an individual to contribute to the surveillance of communicable disease in the Region. This will involve work on all aspects of surveillance systems from development, user involvement, implementation, maintenance and training through to audit, analysis, interpretation and production and dissemination of appropriate outputs. Appropriate IT skills to support these activities are therefore essential. In addition, you will contribute to, and generally assist with, epidemiology relating to communicable disease and infection and related activities in collaboration with public health colleagues in the Region.

For an informal discussion regarding this post, please contact Dr Lorna Willocks on tel: 01223 330564.

## CDSC (SOUTH EAST)

## INFORMATION MANAGER A&amp;C6

£22,555 - £28,640 inclusive of ADP and Inner London

Weighting allowances

Ref: CDSC/99/SE/1

CDSC (South East) is a newly established Regional Unit, which comprises some of the districts covered by the former Anglia and Oxford, South Thames and South and West NHS regions. The unit is planned to be located at Eastbourne Terrace, Paddington. The unit wish to seek an individual with IT and information abilities in this senior position in a small team. The principal responsibilities of this post are to develop and manage a range of IT and non-IT information related projects and service developments within the South East NHS Region, and to contribute to the IT and non-IT information work of the Regional Services Division of CDSC.

For an informal discussion regarding this post, please contact Dr Dick Mayon-White on tel: 01865 226558.

Interview date for the above 2 posts: 4th March 1999.

## PHLS THAMES/CDSC (LONDON)

## INFORMATION MANAGER A&amp;C6

£22,555 - £28,640 inclusive of ADP and Inner London

Weighting allowances

One year fixed term contract

Ref: CDSC/99/THAMES/1

PHLS Thames and CDSC London are looking to recruit a talented IT professional to work with laboratory data coming from a number of different database systems in a variety of challenging technical environments. The candidate will be based at Paddington, but the post involves significant amounts of travel throughout London and the South East.

Candidates should have excellent and demonstrable skills, in the extraction, manipulation, and analysis of large volumes of data from databases in single and multi-user PC and Unix environments. You should be able to demonstrate competence in using a number of market leading databases and analytical tools and have high level programming skills. Experience in dealing with laboratory data, or working in a laboratory, would be highly desirable but previous experience in the field of medical or public health data would also be an advantage. The ability to communicate effectively with all levels of staff and to work within a team is essential. This senior post requires someone with a great deal of personal initiative who can learn and acquire skills very quickly.

For an informal discussion regarding this post, please contact Mr Phil Atkinson on tel: 0171 725 2766.



National Health Service terms and conditions of service apply.

For application forms and job descriptions please write quoting the relevant reference to Mrs M Cable, Personnel Officer, CDSC,

61 Colindale Avenue, London NW9 5EQ.

Closing date: 15th February 1999.

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## Windsor

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We are consequently seeking to expand our Post-Sales consultancy team based in our UK headquarters near Windsor and are seeking graduate technologists, looking for a second job move or with experience of a sandwich year ideally within a relevant industry.

## The role is to

- offer support (primarily telephone with some on-site diagnostics/resolution) to a range of customers and resellers located throughout the UK, Europe, Latin America, South Africa and Russia.
- undertake responsibility for call logging, setting up testbed installations.
- problem replication and resolution/escalation.

## You will

- have a good technical awareness of Unix or NT programming skills in C/Visual C and Visual Basic.
- be familiar with some/all of the following: Oracle/MS-SQL/Informatica/Sybase; Lotus Notes; Exchange/WEB/Internet/HTML/Java environments.
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In return for your skills and enthusiasm, we will offer you full product training and the opportunity to join one of the world's most prestigious software firms.

For further information, contact our advising consultant, Phil Robson on 0171 886 1490. Alternatively, send your CV, quoting reference ETIN908, to McGregor Boyall Associates, 114 Middlesex Street, London E1 7JH. Fax: 0171 375 1143. Email: phil@mcgregor-boyall.com or visit our web-site at www.mcgregor-boyall.com. Further information about Excalibur Technologies can be found at www.excalibur.com

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A leading supplier of network solutions which supports Audio and Video applications also looking for a graduate with IT skills now expand to their recruitment, principally to work within the taken ring division. Engineers with C, C++, and ideally some experience in Assembly, Pascal, FORTRAN or Fortran should send their CV, immediately quoting the reference below, however less experienced Engineers should call for an initial chat. You will benefit from exceptional benefits, some training not to mention excellent remuneration. Ref: JAS/99/02

## Multimedia/Video Comms

£20-25k + Bonus  
This exciting company are looking for bright people with experience in at least two of the following: C, C++, Assembly, JAVA, HTML, MPEG and Macromedia and a 2-2.5 year minimum. The lucky stars will be working on Digital Video and Multimedia applications and given the opportunity to progress to a postgraduate role. CVs should be forwarded to the following e-mail by the end of next month. Ref: JAS/99/02

## GSM Software

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This dynamic company is spearheading their way to the top in the latest advancement in GSM technology. Due to their success, they require a variety of Engineers from Junior Software with 5 months experience, to Senior Designers/Project Managers with 5 years experience in Software Design, Test or Development. To qualify for an interview you should ideally have a good knowledge and experience in C, C++, Windows or UNIX, where any DSP electronics/comms experience will be an added advantage. Ring me now. Ref: JAS/99/02

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# NEW FILMS

**SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)**  
Director: Guy Madden  
Starring: Gwyneth Paltrow, Joseph Fiennes  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.  
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Cinema, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

**STEPMOM (12)**  
Director: Chris Columbus  
Starring: Susan Sarandon, Julia Roberts  
Notebooks out for your authentic Mom Movie recipe. Lay a pastry of wisecracks, add tears and shrink-wrapped life lessons, then ice it all off with a dedication to the director's own "mom". Stepmom skips on nothing. This sugar-glazed, over-ready affair casts an out-of-focus Susan Sarandon as a middle-aged matriarch squabbling over her offspring with the new model mom (Julia Roberts) that hubby Ed Harris has hooked up with. The first mom gets poorly and laughter turns to tears (or at least weary resignation). Sad but true, mothers die too. Didn't your mom teach you anything?  
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. And local cinemas

**TWO GIRLS AND A GUY (15)**  
Director: James Toback  
Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Heather Graham  
James Toback's taut ménage à trois drama prowls edgily around its lone left-space location

and probes aggressively at the psychological make-up of its three central characters. Heather Graham and Natasha Gregson Warner are the duped girlfriends of Robert Downey Jr's love-rat prima donna, and *Two Girls and a Guy* gives them plenty of room to move and breathe, turning the resulting yarn into a pungent acting showcase. Toback's picture is essentially filmed theatre, and struggles to sustain itself throughout a feature-length running time. That said, the vibrant writing and moody atmospherics cast a considerable spell.  
West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket. Local: Warner Village Finchley Road

**VERY BAD THINGS (18)**  
Director: Peter Berg  
Starring: Christian Slater, Cameron Diaz  
A bunch of stag-weekenders accidentally kill a Las Vegas whore, intentionally murder the security guard who rumbles the crime, then start coming apart at the seams on their arrival home. Peter Berg's debut serves up swaggering, gross-out comedy in a *Loaded* magazine style, but it's finally a film with nowhere to go save from shrill to shriller to shriller. More crucially, you're never quite sure whether Berg is satirising his rapacious white males or merely indulging them in their thirtysomething kicks. Virtuoso nastiness, plus some full-throttle acting from Daniel Stern (as the gang's most gut-ridden member) and Cameron Diaz (a ball-busting fiancée) lend the mess a certain shameful allure.  
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

### THE FIVE BEST FILMS

**The Opposite of Sex (18)**  
Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, causing all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her brother (Martin Donovan).

**π (15)**  
Darren Aronofsky's debut, filmed in sooty black-and-white, tells the story of a genius mathematician. This stylish indie movie fearlessly combines *Wall Street*, Jewish mysticism and nightmarish headcases.

**Shakespeare in Love (15)**  
This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow head a multi-star cast.

**The Dream Life of Angels (18)**  
Erick Zovca's remarkable debut draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Eloïse Bouchet) and Marie (Natasha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive in Lille.

**The Truman Show (PG)**  
Peter Weir's ingenious, unsettling fantasy (right) is, in the end, an escape movie – in the case of Truman Burbank (Jim Carrey), it's breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.



ANTHONY QUINN

### THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

**The Colour of Justice (Tricycle Theatre)**  
Potent re-enactment of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, coinciding with the future surrounding the fate of the policeman involved in the case. To 6 Feb

**The Street of Crocodiles (Queen's Theatre)**  
Triumphant revival (right) of Theatre de Complicite's surreal and searing plunge into the imagination of Polish-Jewish writer Bruno Schulz. To 20 Feb

**Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre)**  
Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rogers and Hammerstein classic fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 Jan

**The Winter's Tale (RSC, Stratford)**  
An amazingly rich and complex performance from Antony Sher in Gregory Doran's Romanov-style production. In rep to 4 Mar

**Martin Guerre (West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds)**  
It's third time lucky for this much-revived musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter, magnificent show. To 13 Feb



PAUL TAYLOR

### THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

**Monet in the 20th Century (Royal Academy)**  
The gardens and ponds at Giverny dissolve into elemental visions: fiery lights, haze, liquid reflections, voids and depths. The strange last works of Impressionism. To 18 Apr

**Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)**  
Some of the smartest, most intense portraits ever. Men: icons of power. Women: exquisite mixtures of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. Images of triumphant bourgeois luxury. To 25 Apr

**Andreas Gursky (Serpentine Gallery)**  
Photographs 1994-98 (right): wide-angle, high-finish, micro-detail vistas of our world – stock-exchange floor, alpine valley – images filled with more than the eye can see. To 7 Mar



TOM L. BUCK

**Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)**  
"I saw this" – three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya and Otto Dix. Visions from the blackest of times. To 30 Mar

**Willie Doherty (MoMA, Oxford)**  
"Somewhere Else": a nervy, multi-screen video installation by this leading Irish artist, reflects on sectarian terror and state security. To 4 Apr

## GENERAL RELEASE

**THE ACID HOUSE (18)**  
A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh. Less poised and populist than *Trainspotting*, but more edgy and intense, too. West End: Odeon Camden Town

**BULWORTH (18)**  
Dog-tired and disillusioned at the end of a campaign, senator Jay Bulworth (Warren Beatty) turns suicidal loose cannon, lifting the lid on US politics, hanging out in the 'hood and delivering his speeches in abrasive rap stylings. Crude and condescending on occasion, yet genuinely sardonic and committed, too. West End: Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

**CLASS TRIP (LA CLASSE DE NEIGE) (15)**  
This pungent child's-eye psycho-drama swishes nervously between stark naturalism and florid dream sequences.  
West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue Repertory. Cine Lumiere

**THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS (18)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.  
West End: ABC Swiss Centre

**ELIZABETH (15)**  
Shekhar Kapur's story of a woman struggling to gain purchase in a male world largely neglects the opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty.  
West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Minima, Odeon Mezzanine Repertory, The Lux Cinema, National Film Theatre, Phoenix Cinema, Riverside Studios Cinema

**ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)**  
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse in this high, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller.  
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

**54 (15)**  
Mark Christopher's retro-trip through the heyday of New York's Studio 54 boasts a glitterball turn from Mike Myers (as club-boss Steve Rubell) but not a whole lot else. This is a garbled, underdeveloped run-through of dance-floor chic as Ryan Phillippe's colourless busboy falls in with the beautiful folk and learns the downside of life in the fast lane. Tatty stuff, all told.  
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. Local: Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, UCI Surrey Quays

**HANA-BI (18)**  
Violent yet elegiac portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge. Its dreamlike style makes it strangely moving.  
Local: Beckenham Studio, Greenwich Cinema

**HILARY AND JACKIE (15)**  
Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Anand Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pre sisters Hilary and Jackie, married flautist and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). Sibling rivalries, a ménage à trois and terminal illness are all carefully navigated by Tucker's finely-wrought direction, though it's as an acting showcase that the film really hits home.  
West End: Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill. And local cinemas

**LITTLE VOICE (15)**  
Holed up in her room, Jane Horrocks perfects Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Braising black comedy. Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine succeed in pushing it through to the final curtain.  
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road Repertory, Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

**THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)**  
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder.  
West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

**MEET JOE BLACK (12)**  
Picking his way through Martin Brest's underdeveloped rehaul of *Death Takes a Holiday* goes Brad Pitt's aquiline Grim Reaper, who gets chaperoned round the everyday delights of planet Earth by Anthony Hopkins' dying bibliophile. The film has a few neat themes and a reliably solid turn from Hopkins, but it is too much a picture of disparate pieces.  
West End: Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

**MY NAME IS JOE (15)**  
Ken Loach's solid social-realist drama tells the tale of Joe (Peter Mullan), a recovering alcoholic torn between his old life (drugs, crime) and his new (a romance with Louise Goodall's middle-class health visitor). *My Name is Joe* brilliantly spotlights the groping hopes and thwarted ambitions of a Britain caught below the poverty line.  
West End: ABC Panton Street Local: Beazleyhead, Cinesworld Repertory, Watermans Arts Centre

**THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.  
West End: Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. Local: Croydon Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld, The Movies, Warner Village Finchley Road, Warner Village Finchley Road, Greenwich Cinema, Hampstead ABC, Holloway Odeon, Iford Odeon, Kingston ABC Options, Peckham Premier, Putney ABC, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham Odeon, New Stratford Picture House, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon, Woodford ABC

**THE PARENT TRAP (PG)**  
The Parent Trap catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue, re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer into a spiky, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natasha Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together.  
West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Local: Acton Park Royal Warner Village, Barnet Odeon, Beckenham ABC, Beazleyhead, Cinesworld, Bromley Odeon, Croydon Fairfield Halls, Croydon Warner Village, Dagenham Warner Village, Edmonton Lee Valley UCI 12, Feltham Cinesworld, The Movies, Warner Village North Finchley, Warner Village Finchley Road, Greenwich Cinema, Hampstead ABC, Holloway Odeon, Iford Odeon, Kingston ABC Options, Peckham Premier, Putney ABC, Staples Corner Virgin, Streatham Odeon, New Stratford Picture House, Sutton UCI 6, UCI Surrey Quays, Wimbledon Odeon, Woodford ABC

**THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)**  
In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result ends up looking more like *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat.  
West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

**THE TRUMAN SHOW (PG)**  
See *The Independent Recommends*, above.  
West End: Plaza, Ritzy Cinema

## CINEMA

### WEST END

**ABC PANTON STREET**  
(0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly  
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm  
Name Is Joe 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm  
Practical Magic 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5.55pm, 8.20pm

**ABC PICCADILLY**  
(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) • Piccadilly  
Circus Elizabeth 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm  
There's Something About Mary 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

**ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE**  
(0870-902 0402) • Leicester  
Square Class Trip 1.05pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm  
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.35pm, 8.55pm

**ABC SWISS CENTRE**  
(0870-902 0403) • Leicester  
Square Buffalo 66 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm  
The Hot Chick 1.15pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

**ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD**  
(0870-902 0414) • Tottenham  
Court Road Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9.40pm  
The Opposite of Sex 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.30pm, 9.35pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.05pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm

**BARBICAN SCREEN**  
(0171-638 8891) • Barbican  
Hilary and Jackie 6pm, 8.40pm  
Shakespeare in Love 3pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

**CHelsea CINEMA**  
(0171-351 3742) • Sloane  
Square Hilary and Jackie 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

**CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE**  
(0171-498 3323) • Clapham  
Common Bulworth 2.45pm, 5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm  
Hilary and Jackie 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm  
The Opposite of Sex 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm

**CURZON MAYFAIR**  
(0171-369 1720) • Green Park  
Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

**CURZON MINIMA**  
(0171-369 1723) • Hyde Park  
Corner/Kingsbridge Elizabeth 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm

**CURZON SOHO**  
(0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm)) • Curzon  
Court Road Bulworth 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9pm  
Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pm  
The Opposite of Sex 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm

**EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE**  
(020-899992) • Leicester  
Square Meet Joe Black 12noon, 3.40pm, 7.20pm  
The Prince of Egypt 3.15pm, 6pm, 8pm  
Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm

**GATE NOTTING HILL**  
(0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill  
Gate Hilary and Jackie 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

**METRO**  
(0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly  
Circus/Leicester Square The Apple (SBS) 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm  
Dobberman 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

**NOTTING HILL CORONET**  
(0171-727 8705) • Notting Hill  
Gate Shakespeare in Love 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

**ODEON CAMDEN TOWN**  
(0870-050007) • Camden Town  
54 4pm, 8.12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm  
Little Voice 1.55pm, 2.50pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.05pm, 4.05pm, 6.45pm, 9.20pm, 11.55pm, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm, 12.25pm, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm, 9.05pm

**ODEON KENSINGTON**  
(0870-050007) • High Street  
Kensington Bulworth 1.25pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm, 9.40pm  
Hilary and Jackie 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm  
Little Voice 1.55pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.40pm  
Practical Magic 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm  
Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm, 12.25pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm, 9.25pm

**ODEON MARBLE ARCH**  
(0870-050007) • Marble Arch  
Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.05pm, 9pm  
Little Voice 1.40pm, 4.30pm, 7.20pm, 10.10pm  
Practical Magic 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.25pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm, 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.50pm

**ODEON MEZZANINE**  
(0870-050007) • Leicester  
Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm  
Enemy of the State 1.25pm, 4.20pm, 6.10pm, 9.05pm

**ODEON SWISS COTTAGE**  
(0870-050007) • Swiss  
Cottage Hilary and Jackie 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.35pm, 8.15pm  
Little Voice 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm  
Practical Magic 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm, 11.50pm, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.20pm, 10.10pm

## CINEMA

### LONDON LOCALS

**ACTON**  
**PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE**  
(0181-896 0066) • Park Royal  
Bulworth 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm  
Meet Joe Black 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm  
The Opposite of Sex 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm  
8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.55pm  
The Siege 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm  
Very Bad Things 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm

**BARNET**  
**ODEON (08705 050007)** • High  
Barnet Elizabeth 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9pm  
Practical Magic 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm  
Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Stepmom 1.45pm, 4.25pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm  
Very Bad Things 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm

**BECKENHAM**  
**ABC (0870 9020412)** • Beckenham  
Jenny Holm's Energy of the State 2pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm  
Practical Magic 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm  
Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

**BEXLEYHEATH**  
**CINEMARK (0181-303 1550)** • Bexleyheath  
AA AB LAUT Chalaín 12noon, 6pm  
Bulworth 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm  
The Opposite of Sex 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm  
Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

**BROMLEY**  
**ODEON (08705 050007)** • Bromley  
North/Bromley South Little Voice 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm  
Shakespeare in Love 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm, 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

**CATFORD**  
**ABC (0181-698 3306)** • Catford  
Practical Magic 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Very Bad Things 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

**CROYDON**  
**CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030)** • Croydon  
East/Croydon Dancin' At Luginasa 8.30pm, 9.50pm  
3.30pm Left Luggage 6.15pm

**FINCHLEY ROAD**  
**WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110)** • Finchley Road  
Bulworth 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm  
Enemy of the State 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm  
Little Voice 11.30am, 2pm, 7.30pm

## CINEMA

### LONDON LOCALS

**ACTON**  
**PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE**  
(0181-896 0066) • Park Royal  
Bulworth 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm  
Meet Joe Black 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm  
The Opposite of Sex 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm  
8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.55pm  
The Siege 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm  
Very Bad Things 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm

**BARNET**  
**ODEON (08705 050007)** • High  
Barnet Elizabeth 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9pm  
Practical Magic 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm  
Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Stepmom 1.45pm, 4.25pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm  
Very Bad Things 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.50pm

**BECKENHAM**  
**ABC (0870 9020412)** • Beckenham  
Jenny Holm's Energy of the State 2pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm  
Practical Magic 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm  
Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

**BEXLEYHEATH**  
**CINEMARK (0181-303 1550)** • Bexleyheath  
AA AB LAUT Chalaín 12noon, 6pm  
Bulworth 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm  
The Opposite of Sex 1.45pm, 4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm  
Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

**BROMLEY**  
**ODEON (08705 050007)** • Bromley  
North/Bromley South Little Voice 2.25pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm  
Shakespeare in Love 12.25pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm, 10.55pm, 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.25pm

**CATFORD**  
**ABC (0181-698 3306)** • Catford  
Practical Magic 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Very Bad Things 2.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm

**CROYDON**  
**CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030)** • Croydon  
East/Croydon Dancin' At Luginasa 8.30pm, 9.50pm  
3.30pm Left Luggage 6.15pm

**FINCHLEY ROAD**  
**WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110)** • Finchley Road  
Bulworth 1.45pm, 4.15pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm  
Enemy of the State 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 7.30pm  
Little Voice 11.30am, 2pm, 7.30pm

## CINEMA

### LONDON LOCALS

**ACTON**  
**PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE**  
(0181-896 0066) • Park Royal  
Bulworth 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm  
Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm  
Meet Joe Black 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm  
The Opposite of Sex 1.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm  
8.40pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.55pm  
The Siege 2pm, 4.40pm, 7.20pm  
Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.30pm  
Very Bad Things 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm

**BARNET**  
**ODEON (08705 050007)** • High  
Barnet Elizabeth 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9pm  
Practical Magic 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm  
Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 3.25pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm  
Stepmom 1.45pm, 4.25pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm  
Very Bad Things 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.



1. 凡在本市范围内从事经营活动的个体工商户，均须依法向税务机关申报纳税。  
 2. 个体工商户应按照规定的期限和地点，如实申报其经营收入和应纳税额。  
 3. 税务机关有权依法对个体工商户的经营场所进行税务检查。  
 4. 个体工商户不得隐瞒收入、虚报支出，否则将依法予以处罚。  
 5. 个体工商户应妥善保管税务凭证，不得伪造、变造或擅自销毁。  
 6. 违反规定的个体工商户，将被列入重点监控对象，并接受更严格的税务管理。  
 7. 本规定自发布之日起施行。  
 8. 税务机关将加强宣传，提高个体工商户的税法遵从度。  
 9. 个体工商户应主动配合税务机关的工作，共同营造良好的税收环境。  
 10. 本规定解释权归税务机关所有。







2

6 PM

**YOU MUST  
BE JOKING.**



# Channel 5

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

100



**Peter  
Pan**

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